



President Barack Obama addresses the nation from the Oval Office at the White House in Washington, Sunday night, Dec. 6, 2015. The president announced no significant shift in U.S. strategy and offered no new policy prescriptions for defeating the Islamic State, underscoring both his confidence in his current approach and the lack of easy options for countering the extremist group.

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## Obama: Terror Threat Against US Has Entered ‘New Phase’

**JULIE PACE**  
**AP White House Correspondent**  
**WASHINGTON (AP)**

— In a rare Oval Office address, President Barack Obama vowed Sunday night the United States would overcome a new terror threat that seeks to “poison the minds” of people here and around the world, as he sought to reassure Americans shaken by recent attacks in Paris and California. “I know that after so much war, many Americans are

asking whether we are confronted by a cancer that has no immediate cure,” he said, speaking from a lectern in his West Wing office. “The threat from terrorism is real, but we will overcome it,” he declared. The president’s speech followed Wednesday’s shooting in San Bernardino, California, that killed 14 people and wounded 21. Authorities say a couple carried out the attack and the wife pledged allegiance to the Islamic State and its leader in a Facebook post.

Obama said that while there was no evidence that the shooters were directed by a terror network overseas or part of a broader plot, “the two of them had gone down the dark path of radicalization.” “This was an act of terrorism designed to kill innocent people,” he said in the 13-minute address. Obama’s speech was likely to leave his critics unsatisfied. He announced no significant shift in strategy and offered no new policy prescriptions for defeating

IS, underscoring both his confidence in his current approach and the lack of easy options for countering the extremist group. He did call for a review of the visa waiver program for people seeking to come to the U.S. and said he would urge private companies and law enforcement leaders to work together to ensure potential attackers can’t use technology to evade detection.

Continued on Page 3



## At Press Time: Venezuelans elect legislature amid tense race

**HANNAH DREIER**  
**Associated Press**

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)**

— The socialist system built by Hugo Chavez faced its gravest electoral test Sunday as Venezuelans cast ballots in what seems to have become a tightening race for control of the national legislature.

Voters woke to state-sponsored fireworks and music in working-class parts of Caracas. Wealthier neighborhoods, which tend to

authorities also suspended the credentials for yes, former Bolivian President Jorge Quiroga, one of six conservative leaders invited by the opposition to monitor the election, for controversial comments seen as interfering in the voting process.

Some members of the opposition are angry after elections officials ordered polling centers to stay open for an extra hour, even if no one was stand-

of Sunday's vote, but many Venezuelans still fear post-election violence. Maduro had repeatedly vowed in recent weeks to take to the streets if his party lost. Opposition leaders said that if their coalition failed to win, it would mean the state cheated.

On Sunday, Maduro appeared to have changed his tone.

"In Venezuela, peace and democracy must reign," he said after voting in a work-



**A mural of Venezuelan's late President Hugo Chavez decorates a wall outside a polling station where voters wait to enter during congressional elections in Caracas, Venezuela, Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015. The system built by Chavez faces its gravest electoral test as voters cast ballots in what seems to have become a tightening race for control of the national legislature.**

(AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

favor the opposition, were spared the early morning cacophony, but many headed to the polls at the crack of dawn anyway, anxious to cast their ballots early in case violence should break out later in the day.

"I'm voting for the opposition and then I'm going home to read newspapers all day," said Nora Beatriz, 78. "You can't believe the level of hate there is here now. You say you don't like the socialists and you get screamed at, yelled at, and who knows what else."

As voting wound down, several ruling party governors were caught on film braving boos and insults as they entered their polling places, including Chavez's brother Adan. Electoral

ing in line to vote.

Government opponents mobbed some voting stations demanding that the National Guard stick to the original schedule of closing at 6 p.m.

They chanted, "Soldiers, protect your country!" as young men with heavy weapons looked on.

A grandmother physically blocked one polling center entrance in downtown Caracas.

The law says a polling station has to stay open if people are waiting to vote, but no one was standing in line outside that balloting center. Soldiers closed that center before the one hour extension was up at 7 p.m.

More than 163,000 police and troops were deployed around the country ahead

ing-class neighborhood of Caracas. "I've said we'll take the fight to the streets, but maybe I was wrong. We can't go where we've always been." Electoral authorities extended voting hours for an additional hour amid heavy turnout. Under Venezuelan law, polls must remain open as long as voters are in line waiting to cast ballots.

Until recently, the opposition was seen as coasting to its first major electoral victory since Chavez became president in 1998, with Venezuelans tired of rampant crime, routine shortages of basic goods and inflation pushing well into triple digits. The economic crisis has worsened with this year's slump in oil revenue, which funds almost all public spending. □

## Messy midway: Paris draft climate deal ready; universal pact could take time

**KARL RITTER**  
**SYLVIE CORBET**  
**Associated Press**

**LE BOURGET, France (AP)** — Negotiators adopted a draft climate agreement this weekend that was cluttered with brackets and competing options, leaving ministers with the job of untangling key sticking points in what is envisioned to become a lasting, universal pact to fight global warming.

As the U.N. talks outside Paris reached their midway point, the 48-page draft agreement was sent along to environment and foreign ministers who will work on it next week.

"So let's work," French President Francois Hollande said in a speech this weekend. "It's up to the ministers and officials of every government to remove options, find compromises and make decisions on the difficult issues without undermining the ambition" of the climate pact.

Many disagreements remain, almost all related to defining the obligations and expectations of rich and poor countries, as well as those who don't fit neatly into either category. The draft had multiple options on that issue — everything from who should pay for a global transition to clean energy to what happens to countries that miss their targets to fight climate change.

One of the most radical proposals called for an "international tribunal of climate justice" to deal with wealthy countries that don't fulfill their commitments. Rich nations are certain to reject that idea.

"We would have wished to be further along than we are at this point, but the text being forwarded so far reflects our key priorities," said Maldives delegate Thoriq Ibrahim, who chairs an alliance of small island nations on the front lines of climate change.

Although 184 countries have already submitted national plans to reduce climate-warming greenhouse gas emissions, how to anchor those pledges in a legally binding deal remains to be worked out.

Chief Chinese negotiator Su Wei told reporters Saturday that "all the provisions, starting from the preamble to the final clauses, would be legally binding."

That contrasts with the U.S. position, which is for some parts to be legally binding, but not countries' pledges to limit the greenhouse gas emissions. Binding emissions cuts would likely require the Obama administration to send the deal to the Republican-controlled Congress, where it would likely be struck down.

After the news conference, Su indicated the issue was still up for negotiation.

"We have to further discuss ... try to find some proper solution," he said.

Jake Schmidt of the Natural Resource Defense Council, a New York-based environmental group, said the issue could be resolved by avoiding words like "shall" in key paragraphs about emissions targets.

The Paris accord is meant to be a turning point in the world's efforts to fight climate change. Since they started in 1992, the U.N. talks have not been able to stop the rise in emissions, mostly from the burning of fossil fuels, blamed for warming the planet.

Previous agreements only required rich countries to reduce their emissions. The new agreement would apply to all countries, but many developing nations are resisting language that would indicate a shift in responsibilities. □





## Obama: Terror Threat Against US Has Entered 'New Phase'

**Continued from front**

He also called on Congress to pass new authorization

they can't identify every would-be shooter. He called it a matter of national security to prevent

just twice, the last in 2010 when he announced the end of combat missions in Iraq.

the heated rhetoric from Republican presidential candidates about Muslims. The president implored

into American communities, he said, is "a real problem that Muslims most confront without excuse."

He repeated his long-standing opposition to an American-led ground war in the Middle East and made no mention of the more aggressive action others have suggested, including enforcing a no-fly zone and safe corridors in Syria.

The president's critics — and increasingly, some members of his own party — have questioned his strategy.

Hours before he spoke, Hillary Clinton — his former secretary of state and the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination — said the U.S. is "not winning" the fight against IS.

Obama has insisted that the Islamic State is contained in Iraq and Syria. However, the group has set its sights elsewhere in the world, launching attacks in Lebanon and Turkey and downing a Russia airliner over Egypt.

The Nov. 13 attacks in Paris marked the group's most aggressive actions in Europe, a coordinated effort that left 130 people dead and wounded hundreds more.

The FBI is investigating the San Bernardino, California, massacre as a terrorist attack that would be the deadliest by Islamic extremists on American soil since Sept. 11, 2001. □



**President Barack Obama addresses the nation from the Oval Office at the White House in Washington, Sunday night, Dec. 6, 2015. The president's speech followed Wednesday's shooting in San Bernardino, California, that killed 14 people and wounded 21.**

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

for military actions underway against IS in Iraq and Syria and to approve legislation to keep people on the "no-fly list" from buying guns.

The president also reiterated his call for tightening gun laws, saying no matter how effective law enforcement and intelligence are,

potential killers from getting guns.

"What we can do, and must do, is make it harder for them to kill," he said.

In speaking from the Oval Office, Obama turned to a tool of the presidency that he has used infrequently. He's made televised statements from the Oval Office

While Obama has spoken frequently about the Islamic State in recent news conferences and other events, the decision to speak in prime-time reflected concern among his advisers that his message isn't breaking through. The White House has been particularly concerned about

Americans to not turn against Muslims at home, saying the Islamic State was driven by a desire to spark a war between the West and Islam. Still, he called on Muslims in the U.S. and around the world to take up the cause of fighting extremism.

The spread of radical Islam



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## Investigators: Wife may have been driving force in rampage

TAMI ABDOLLAH  
BRIAN SKOLOFF  
Associated Press  
SAN BERNARDINO, California (AP) — Investigators are looking into whether Tashfeen Malik radicalized her American-born husband and was the driving force in the San Bernardino shooting plot, two officials said Sunday. That possibility emerged last week when it was disclosed that the Pakistani-

born Malik had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group in a Facebook post at about the same time she and husband Syed Farook launched the attack Wednesday that left 14 people dead at a holiday luncheon. Meanwhile, memorials for the victims got underway Sunday, and President Barack Obama prepared to deliver a prime-time address to the nation on

security and terrorism. Federal investigators continued trying to establish what pushed the couple to carry out what appears to be the deadliest attack on American soil by Islamic extremists since 9/11. "I think I can't say definitively right now what led either of these two to pick up guns and become murderers. I consider that is the focus of our investigation," Attorney General



This undated photo provided by the FBI shows Tashfeen Malik. Malik and her husband, Syed Farook, died in a fierce gun-battle with authorities several hours after their commando-style assault on a gathering of Farook's colleagues from San Bernardino, Calif., County's health department Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2015. (FBI via AP)

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Loretta Lynch said on NBC. Lynch said the FBI terrorism investigation so far has involved "over 300 interviews, several locations searched, a lot of information being processed, being analyzed and being gathered, and more to come." One U.S. official said there appears to be nothing in Farook's history that would implicate him as the driver of the attack. Separately, a law enforcement official said investigators are looking into whether Malik was radicalized in the Middle East, where she spent considerable time, and used her 2014 marriage to Farook to enter the U.S. and commit jihad. But the official said it is only one among a number of theories being pursued. The two officials were not

authorized to discuss the investigation publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. While radical Islamic groups at times have mobilized women as suicide bombers, it is extremely rare in conservative Muslim societies for female jihadists to take part in actual combat, as Malik did. Malik, 29, and Farook, 28, were killed in a shootout with police hours after they opened fire with assault rifles on a gathering of Farook's colleagues. Former college classmates of Malik and others who knew her in Pakistan said that in recent years, she began dressing more conservatively — including wearing a traditional Muslim scarf that covered nearly her entire face — and became more fervent in her faith. □



## Jimmy Carter says latest brain scan shows no cancer



Former President Jimmy Carter teaches Sunday School class at Maranatha Baptist Church in his hometown, in Plains, Ga. Former President Carter said Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015, that no cancer was detected in his latest scan.

(AP Photo/David Goldman)

**KATHLEEN FOODY**  
Associated Press

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Jimmy Carter says his most recent brain scan showed no signs of cancer.

The former president said in a statement Sunday that he will continue to receive doses of Keytruda, a recently approved autoimmune drug to help his

body seek out cancer cells in his body.

Carter said the scan showed no signs of the original cancer "spots" or any new ones.

Carter, 91, announced in August that he had been diagnosed with melanoma that spread to his brain. Doctors removed a portion of his liver and found four small tumors on his brain.

The former president apparently shared the good news on Sunday with those filling the congregation of Maranatha Baptist Church for one of his regular Sunday school lessons.

"I went to the doctors this week for the second time," Carter said in a video posted on Twitter by NBC.

"The first time I went for an MRI of my brain, the four

places were still there but they were responding to the treatment. And when I went this week, they didn't find any cancer at all."

Carter smiled slightly as people in the congregation respond with "ah's" and applause.

"So a lot of people prayed for me, and I appreciate that," Carter said.

Jill Stuckey, a church member who helps organize Carter's lessons, said that "our prayers have been answered. I can't think of a better Christmas present." Carter has remained active, volunteering on a building project with Habitat for Humanity and continuing to work at The Carter Center, the human rights organization he founded after leaving the White House. □

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## States taking a closer look at regulatory boards after ruling

**ANDREW HUGGINS**  
AP Legal Affairs Writer

**COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)** — States are taking a closer look at boards and commissions regulating everything from dentists to dietitians after the U.S. Supreme Court said some panels could be violating antitrust laws. The concern is that boards made up of practicing professionals could be trying to put competitors out of business through cease-and-desist letters and other actions.

Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin ordered boards in July to begin submitting proposals to crack down on potential licensing violators to the state Attorney General for review. California Attorney General Kamala Harris said in September the composition of boards might have to be changed. And in October, the office of Ohio Gov. John Kasich told boards to take any questions about regulatory action to their lawyers.

"If advised by your assigned legal counsel that

the proposed action raises serious antitrust concerns, the proposed regulatory action should not be taken," Megan Fitzmartin, Kasich's director of boards and commissions, wrote in an Oct. 29 memo.

Not nearly as visible as state agencies, boards play a big role in consumers' lives, regulating dozens of professions such as cosmetology, engineering, medicine, dentistry, optical dispensing and many others. Boards are typically a mix of professionals in the field they regulate — nurses, chiropractors or funeral home directors, for example — along with public members not associated with that profession.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in February that the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners, a panel made up mostly of dentists, violated federal law against unfair competition when it tried to prevent lower-cost competitors in other fields from offering teeth-whitening services. □

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# AP Exclusive: Texas birth certificate rules often unenforced

WILL WEISSERT  
SETH ROBBINS  
Associated Press  
BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP)

— For seven years, Texas said it won't accept Mexican identification cards when issuing birth certificates for children of people in the United States illegally. But it doesn't appear to have stepped up enforcement until recently, amid mounting political pressure to get tougher on immigration, records obtained by The Associated Press show.

That could validate complaints from immigrant parents suing in federal court, claiming the state is denying "birthright" U.S. citizenship for their Texas-born children guaranteed under the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The AP used open records requests to get annual "self-assessment" surveys completed by local registrars. They show that officials in at least five cities and counties along the U.S.-Mexico border told the Texas Department of State Health Services during the

past three years that they were allowing parents to get copies of birth cer-

McAllen, wrote in a 2013 survey response. "Therefore our office accepts the

whether the Mexican ID is acceptable. Texas says it doesn't trust

consulate in Austin saying federal authorities had determined the matricula consular wasn't a "secure" form of identification and that it therefore wouldn't be accepted for people obtaining birth certificates for their newborns.

The state began spelling out that policy in registrar handbooks in 2010.

But the survey results show some registrars repeatedly admitting to accepting the Mexican documents since 2013, the furthest back the state keeps records, and Texas officials not asking them to stop doing so until recently — if at all.

The Department of State Health Services oversees Texas' Vital Statistics Unit. It reports issuing just one cease and desist letter to a county registrar in Brownsville who was accepting the matricula consular, and that didn't come until this July.

Two months later, it wrote letters instructing against accepting the Mexican document in response to inquiries from registrars in Dallas and nearby McKinney.

Those three letters were all the state provided when asked for correspondence related to the matricula consular since 2008. Health services spokesman Chris Van Deusen subsequently said his department had "identified some additional communications with local registrars about the matricula" but that the lawsuit made those confidential.

Immigration attorneys suggest that the state only got serious about enforcement after women and children from Central America began pouring over Texas' southern border last summer. □



**A woman in Sullivan City, Texas, who said she entered the country illegally, walks with her daughter who was born in the United States, but was denied a birth certificate.**

(AP Photo/Eric Gay)

tificates using a Mexican identification known as the matricula consular.

"Most of applicants are here illegally as they claim, and are therefore unable to obtain a valid form of identification from the United States," Janie Madero, then-registrar in

matricula consular so they can obtain the birth certificate for their children who were born here."

Elsewhere along the border, Arizona generally doesn't accept the matricula consular, while New Mexico does. California lets notaries decide

the matricula consular because of forgery fears, not politics. Hospitals provide documentation of births in Texas, but parents have to obtain birth certificates from registrars or other officials.

In 2008, the health department wrote to the Mexican

## Expert:

## Video shows slain boy's hands in pockets when shot

**CLEVELAND (AP)** — A 12-year-old boy killed by Cleveland police last year had his hands in his pockets when he was shot and wasn't reaching for the pellet gun he was carrying, according to an expert hired by the boy's family to review a frame-by-frame video of the deadly encounter.

Tamir Rice did not have enough time to remove his hands from his pockets before being shot and his hands were not visible to the officer, according to

the report released late Friday night by attorneys for Tamir's family.

The new report and two others from experts already used by the family are the latest analysis of evidence to be released as a grand jury considers whether to bring charges against the officers.

The boy was shot after authorities received a report of a man pointing and waving a gun outside a recreation center in November 2014. The officer who fired at Tamir, Timothy

Loehmann, told investigators he repeatedly ordered the boy to "show me your hands" then saw him pulling a weapon from his waistband before opening fire.

It turned out Tamir was carrying a nonlethal gun that shoots plastic pellets when Loehmann shot him. Tamir died a day later.

Previous reports concluded that Loehmann shot Tamir within 2 seconds of opening his car door. The new analysis determined it happened within less than

a second, according to the review by California-based shooting reconstruction expert Jesse Wobrock.

With the patrol car windows rolled up, Tamir could not have heard commands to show his hands, Wobrock added.

"The scientific analysis and timing involved do not support any claim that there was a meaningful exchange between Officer Loehmann and Tamir Rice, before he was shot," Wobrock said. □



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### US Financial Front:

## Small retailers get creative when holiday sales turn slow



Rod Brown, left, and Ron Elkus, co-owners of The Shirt Box, pose for a photo in their store in Farmington Hills, Mich. With the start of the holiday shopping season behind them and the big final push still to come, independent retailers have to get creative to bring customers in. The men's clothing store is holding events like bourbon tastings and giving lessons on tying bow ties on weekends during the holiday season.

(AP Photo/Carlos Osorio)

**JOYCE M. ROSENBERG**  
AP Business Writer

With the Thanksgiving weekend behind them and the big final rush of holiday shopping still to come, independent retailers have to get creative to bring customers in during the slowest part of the season.

The Shirt Box, a men's clothing store in Farmington Hills, Michigan, is holding events like bourbon tastings and giving lessons on tying bow ties on weekends. The retailer also uses giveaways — co-owner Rod Brown is planning to offer free cufflinks when shoppers buy shirts with French cuffs, or scarves if they buy outerwear.

Brown tries to be innovative to get his customers to shop at his store on slower days.

"It's make or break time for the independent retailers," Brown says.

Small and independent stores usually can't offer deep discounts like the na-

tional chain stores because the smaller players don't have the big sales volume that would allow them to absorb thinner margins from the come-ons. But they can offer customers something most of the large stores like discounters and big-box retailers can't: a warmer, more emotional shopping experience.

"A lot of the independent and smaller retailers actually have an advantage if they really leverage their strengths," says Randy Allen, a lecturer in management at Cornell University's Johnson Graduate School of Management.

Many smaller retailers are well acquainted with their regular customers, which gives them the ability to create a more personal atmosphere, Allen says. Those who serve shoppers mulled cider or other seasonal drinks or use cinnamon-scented candles give their stores a holiday feel. That gets customers in the

mood to spend, Allen says. Smaller stores that provide gift boxes and free gift wrap, saving their customers time and money, are also going to get more business.

"That personal touch can make a big difference," Allen says.

Batch Nashville, which sells food, clothing and other products made in the South, is getting through the slow time with Breakfast with Santa, extended shopping hours one evening and weekend tasting events that let customer sample different products. The Nashville, Tennessee-based company, which also has a big online business, is promoting in-store-only special items via email and social media, CEO Sam Davidson says.

"We're making them feel like this is an experience," Davidson says.

Events like these were so successful last year that Davidson anticipates

Batch Nashville won't need to discount merchandise to draw shoppers later in the season. He's also optimistic that higher-priced items like leather goods and jewelry that it stocked for the holidays will sell well because the special events are bringing shoppers in. The company also lures shoppers with services like free gift wrap and packing and shipping gift boxes.

Rastelli Market Fresh, which operates food stores and caterers in Deptford and Marlton, New Jersey, has a lull in business between Thanksgiving and the last 10 days of the season, spokeswoman Andrea Carr says.

"You have to calculate

and calibrate for that," she says.

The company has offered special prices after Thanksgiving, and plans to taper them off as the season progresses. If customers know prices will be going up, they have a sense of urgency that encourages them to buy, Carr says. It also has product tastings and offers entertaining tips like how to pair wine with holiday dishes — motivating customers to do their shopping before the final days of the season. The strategy helps Rastelli keep its sales coming in throughout the season.

"You can't just have a spike (in business) every now and then," Carr says. □



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**At Press Time:**

## Polls put far right National Front on top in French elections



Far right National Front party regional leader for southeastern France, Marion Marechal-Le Pen arrives at a meeting with supporters, after the first round of the regional elections, in Carpentras, southern France, Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015. French voters are casting ballots Sunday for regional leaders in an unusually tense security climate, expected to favor conservative and far right candidates and strike a new blow against the governing Socialists. (AP Photo/Claude Paris)

**ANGELA CHARLTON**  
**MILOS KRIVOKAPIC**  
**Associated Press**

**PARIS (AP)** — Polling agency projections suggest the far right National Front took the lead in the first round of

France's regional elections on Sunday, in a new boost for Marine Le Pen's anti-immigration strategy and a new blow to President Francois Hollande's Socialists.

The agencies Ifop, OpinionWay and Ipsos based their projections on actual vote count in select constituencies. They projected that the National Front won between 27 and 30

percent support nationwide, followed by former President Nicolas Sarkozy's Republicans party and the governing Socialists.

The elections Sunday took place in an unusually tense security climate just over three weeks after deadly attacks on Paris — a climate expected to favor conservative and far right candidates.

While National Front had significant support Sunday, it's unclear whether the party can translate that into victory in the second round of voting on Dec. 13 for leadership of France's 13 newly drawn regions.

Sarkozy's Republicans party and its allies were projected to come in second place at around 27 percent.

The Socialists, who currently run nearly all of the country's regions, are projected to come in a weak third place, with between 22 and 24 percent.

The Paris attacks on Nov. 13 that killed 130 people and a Europe-wide migrant crisis this year have shaken up France's politi-

cal landscape.

The National Front is hoping the two-round voting that started Sunday will consolidate political gains she has made in recent years — and strengthen its legitimacy as she prepares to seek the presidency in 2017.

The unpopular Hollande has seen his approval ratings jump since the Paris attacks, as he intensified French airstrikes on Islamic State targets in Syria and Iraq and ordered a state of emergency at home. But his party, which currently runs nearly all of France's regions, has seen its electoral support shrivel as the government has failed to shrink 10 percent joblessness or invigorate the economy.

Many political leaders are urging apathetic voters to cast ballots as a riposte to fundamentalists targeting democracies from France to the U.S.

First-time voter Eli Hodara, an 18-year-old Paris student, expressed hope that more young people would turn out. □

## Israeli premier rejects Kerry's warning of binational state

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Israel's prime minister insisted Sunday that his country is not heading toward becoming a binational state, rejecting a warning to that effect by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry.

Also Sunday, police said a Palestinian stabbed several Israelis before he was shot and killed, the latest incident in more than two months of Palestinian at-

tacks.

At his weekly Cabinet meeting Sunday, Benjamin Netanyahu said, "Israel will not be a binational state, but in order to have peace, the other side needs to decide that it wants peace as well." Kerry had warned Saturday about the dangers of the possible collapse of the Palestinian Authority.

He told a conference at

the Brookings Institution in Washington that if that were to happen, Israel would have to assume full governance of the West Bank, potentially leading to a one-state solution that would endanger Israel's future as a Jewish and democratic state.

Later Sunday, police said a Palestinian intentionally crashed his car into two young people walking on

a sidewalk in Jerusalem, injuring them lightly before he got out of the vehicle brandishing a knife and stabbed an officer.

A soldier who saw the incident as he stepped off a bus ran toward the attacker, opened fire and killed him, police said.

Near-daily Palestinian attacks on Israelis that began in mid-September are showing no signs of relent-

ing. Violence erupted over tensions at a sensitive holy site in Jerusalem, sacred to both Jews and Muslims, and quickly escalated and spread.

Since then, 19 Israelis have been killed in Palestinian attacks, mostly stabbings and shootings.

At least 107 Palestinians have also died, including 72 said by Israel to be attackers. □

# JOLLY PIRATES

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## Airstrikes target IS de facto capital of Raqqa in Syria

BASSEM MROUE  
ALBERT AJI

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Airstrikes hit several positions of the Islamic State group in its de facto capital of Raqqa in northern Syria on Sunday, killing and wounding at

least 15 people, opposition activists and social media pages loyal to IS said. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 15 blasts shook the northern and eastern outskirts of Raqqa on Sunday, killing 32 IS fighters

and wounding more than 40. A Raqqa-based activist group that reports on IS, known as Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently, said warplanes struck IS positions on the edge of the city. It had no word on casualties.

RBSS did not say which country carried out the airstrikes while the Observatory said they are believed to be from the U.S.-led coalition that began targeting IS in Syria in September 2014.

A Facebook page used

by IS supporters said the airstrikes were carried out by Russian warplanes on the outskirts of Raqqa and killed 15 people, including eight children and five women. It said 25 people were wounded in the airstrikes. □

## IS-claimed bombing kills Yemeni governor, 6 guards in Aden

AHMED AL-HAJ  
Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — A huge explosion killed the governor of Yemen's southern Aden province and six of his bodyguards on Sunday, security officials said, in an attack that was later claimed by a local Islamic State affiliate.

Gov. Gaafar Mohamed Saad was traveling to his office when the explosion struck his convoy in the southern port city. Authorities are investigating the exact cause of the explosion. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not au-

thorized to brief the media. An IS affiliate claimed the attack in a statement circulated online by supporters, saying the bomb was concealed in a parked car along the convoy's route. The group referred to Saad as a "tyrant" and warned the "heads of the infidels" in Yemen that it would carry out "operations to chop off their rotten heads."

IS has claimed a series of bombings that killed 159 people and wounded 345 this year in Yemen, according to an AP count. The extremists have been able to expand their reach in the chaos of Yemen's



Yemenis inspect the scene of a car bomb attack that killed a Yemeni senior official in the southern port city of Aden, Yemen, Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015. (AP Photo/Wael Qubady)

larger conflict, between a loose array of pro-government forces backed by a Saudi-led coalition and

Shiite Houthi rebels, who control the capital, Sanaa, and large parts of northern Yemen. Pro-government

forces drove the Houthis out of Aden earlier this year. A local al-Qaida affiliate has exploited the chaos to seize territory in Yemen's south and east, and has a growing presence in Aden. On Saturday, masked gunmen in Aden killed a military intelligence official and a judge known for sentencing al-Qaida militants. No one claimed those attacks.

The United Arab Emirates' minister of state for foreign affairs, Anwar Gargash, condemned the killing of the Aden governor and described the perpetrators as "treacherous terrorists." □

## Libya's rival governments shun UN, sign separate peace deal

RAMI MUSA  
Associated Press

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP) — Lawmakers from Libya's rival parliaments have reached a power-sharing agreement in Tunisia, shunning a U.N.-brokered deal to avoid the "foreign intervention" tainting it, an

internationally recognized government representative said Sunday. However, it appeared the deal had failed to gain broad acceptance by either side, with representatives from both parliaments coming out to slam the newly minted agreement.

Libya slid into chaos following the 2011 toppling and killing of longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi. The oil-rich country has been torn between an internationally recognized government in the far east and Islamist-backed government in the capital, Tripoli.

The U.N.'s unity government deal, which is aimed at ending the conflict, was drafted by its former envoy to Libya, Bernardino Leon, who accepted a job last month from the United Arab Emirates. The country backs some members of the internationally recog-

nized government, casting doubts on the international body's neutrality. Sunday's move seemed to splinter the north African country's governing bodies even further, with members from both sides coming out to praise or criticize the deal. □

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# New China airstrips a potential headache for neighbors, US

**C. BODEEN**

**Associated Press**

**BEIJING (AP)** — China's campaign of island building in the South China Sea might soon quadruple the number of airstrips available to the People's Liberation Army in the highly contested and strategically vital region.

That could be bad news for other regional contenders, especially the U.S., the Philippines and Vietnam.

The island construction work that is creating vast amounts of new acreage by piling sand on top of coral reefs is now moving into the construction stage, with buildings, harbors and, most importantly, runways appearing in recent months.

China now operates one airfield at Woody Island in the Paracel island chain, and satellite photos show what appears to be work on two, possibly three, additional airstrips on newly built islands in the Spratly archipelago to the east. The bases could have a "significant impact on the local balance of power" by helping bolster the forward presence of Chinese coast guard and navy

forces, said Euan Graham, director of the International Security Program at the

build or what their purpose would be, repeating only that all military infrastruc-

elite photos collected by U.S. government agencies and private groups includ-

claims.

Those perceptions were reinforced with the deployment in October of advanced J-11BH/BHS fighters of the navy air force to Woody Island that was revealed online in China in October. China's military has declined to comment on the reports.

The island's 2.4-kilometer (1.49-mile) long runway will soon be eclipsed by one more than 3 kilometers (10,000 feet) long on the reclaimed island built atop Fiery Cross Reef in the Spratlys, the satellite photos show. Another runway is being built on Subi Reef, with signs of similar work underway on nearby Mischief Reef.

Patrols by fighter jets based on the islands, most likely temporarily given the salty climate and frequent storms, could serve to intimidate other claimants, especially the Philippines and Vietnam. That could also complicate regular operations by U.S. forces which insist on freedom of navigation and overflight over the entire sea.

"In periods of tension, the intimidation value of air patrols from the islands would be considerable," Graham said.

The airfields would allow Chinese aircraft to refuel, repair and if necessary, rearm without having to fly the more than 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) to the nearest Chinese air base on Hainan island, said Hans Kristensen, a China security expert with the Federation of American Scientists.

They would also be highly vulnerable to bombing in an actual conflict, although their presence alone would require additional planning and effort by opponents. □



**Protesters display placards during a rally at the Chinese Consulate at the financial district of Makati city, east of Manila, Philippines to protest moves by China in "fortifying" its claims at the disputed Spratlys Islands in the South China Sea.**

(AP Photo/Bullit Marquez)

Lowy Institute in Sydney, Australia.

As with most South China Sea developments, China has remained opaque about its plans for the island airstrips. At a recent monthly briefing, Defense Ministry spokesman Wu Qian declined to say how many China planned to

ture was "purely for defensive purposes."

Beijing claims almost all of the South China Sea and its islands and has created seven new features in the Spratlys since last year that are permanently above water totaling more than 800 hectares (2,000 acres) in area, according to sat-

ing the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies.

While China insists its island building works are justified and don't constitute a threat to stability, further militarization of the region seems assured given China's increasingly robust assertions of its territorial

## Azerbaijan: 29 still missing from burning oil platform

**AIDA SULTANOVA**

**Associated Press**

**BAKU, Azerbaijan (AP)** — Azerbaijan's state oil company SOCAR said Sunday that it was still searching for 29 workers missing after a fire swept through an offshore oil platform.

But in an acknowledgment that they were unlikely to be found alive, the company asked the four other countries who share the Caspian Sea to search their own territorial waters

for bodies of the missing oil workers. SOCAR said notices were sent to the border guard services of Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan.

The missing workers were on a lifeboat that toppled into heavy seas late Friday after the oil platform caught fire when an underwater gas pipeline was damaged in the storm.

A ship that had been sent to help with the rescue operation recovered the

body of one of the workers who had been in that lifeboat and saved three other workers, the company and emergency services said. In all, 33 workers were rescued. SOCAR said the platform in the offshore Guneshli field was still burning Sunday because it had reached one of the oil wells. The company first expressed hope that the fire would be extinguished by the end of the day, but later said it was now ex-

pected to happen Monday morning. SOCAR's first vice president, Khoshtakht Yusifzadem, said the company was working with Azerbaijan's emergency services to search for the 29 missing workers by helicopter and ship. The Guneshli 10 platform, which went into operation in 1984, services 24 oil wells and four gas wells, producing 920 tons of oil and 1 million cubic meters (35 million cubic feet) of gas per day. □

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## Colombia finds what may be world's largest sunken treasure

PEDRO MENDOZA  
JOSHUA GOODMAN

Associated Press

CARTAGENA, Colombia  
(AP) — President Juan

Manual Santos on Saturday hailed the discovery of a Spanish galleon that went down off the South American nation's coast more than 300 years ago with what may be the world's largest sunken treasure.

At a news conference in this colonial port city, Santos said the exact location of the galleon San Jose, and how it was discovered with the help of an international team of experts, was a state secret that he'd personally safeguard. The ship sank somewhere in the wide area off Colombia's Baru peninsula, south of Cartagena.

While no humans have yet to reach the wreckage site, autonomous underwater vehicles had gone there and brought back photos of dolphin-stamped bronze cannons in a well-preserved state that leave no doubt to the ship's identity, the government said.

The discovery is the latest chapter in a saga that began three centuries ago, on June 8, 1708, when the galleon ship with 600 people aboard sank as it was trying to outrun a fleet of British warships. It is believed to have been carrying 11 million gold coins and jewels from then Spanish-controlled colonies that

could be worth billions of dollars if ever recovered.

The ship, which maritime experts consider the holy grail of Spanish colonial shipwrecks, has also been the subject of a legal battle in the U.S., Colombia and Spain over who owns the rights to the sunken treasure.

In 1982, Sea Search Armada, a salvage company owned by U.S. investors including the late actor Michael Landon and convicted Nixon White House adviser John Ehrlichman, announced it had found the San Jose's resting place 700 feet below the water's surface.

Two years later, Colombia's government overturned well-established maritime law that gives 50 percent to whoever locates a shipwreck, slashing Sea Search's take to a 5 percent "finder's fee."

A lawsuit by the American investors in a federal court in Washington was dismissed in 2011 and the ruling was affirmed on appeal two years later. Co-



Ernesto Montenegro, Director of the Colombian Institute of Anthropology and History of Colombia, talks to the media while he shows a picture of remains of the Galleon San Jose during a press conference in Cartagena, Colombia, Saturday, Dec. 5, 2015. Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos announced the discovery of the remains of the Galleon San Jose, a Spanish boat eighteenth century empire that sank in the Caribbean Sea loaded with gold.

(AP Photo/ Pedro Mendoza)

lombia's Supreme Court has ordered the ship to be recovered before the international dispute over the fortune can be settled.

Santos didn't mention any salvage company's claim during his presentation, but the government said the ship had been found Nov.

27 in a never-before referenced location through the use of new meteorological and underwater mapping studies. □

## Tullow Oil set to get exploration license in Guyana

GEORGETOWN, Guyana

(AP) — Guyana's Government Information Agency says British petroleum giant Tullow Oil PLC will be awarded an exploration license near an offshore basin where Exxon Mobil

found large quantities of oil and gas in May. Firm officials met in the past week with Guyanese President David Granger and other government leaders to discuss how to develop the country's fledgling petro-

leum industry. Officials said Saturday that Tullow will partner with a smaller firm they did not identify for the exploratory work once the license is approved in the coming weeks. Tullow will explore an area near con-

cessions being developed by Exxon and Repsol of Spain, officials said. In 2012, safety and environmental concerns forced Tullow to abandon an offshore well it was developing with Repsol and CGX Energy of Canada. □

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## Indicted ex-leaders a message to Central America elites



Guatemala's former president Otto Perez Molina makes his first statement in court in Guatemala City in September, 2015, after spending his first night in military custody, following his resignation. In just three months, three former presidents of Central American countries have been charged with corruption.

(AP Photo/Luis Soto)

**K. CORCORAN**  
**Associated Press**

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — In just three months, three former presidents of Central American countries have been charged with corruption, two of them in the past week as ex-leaders of both Honduras and El Salvador were ordered to stand trial. The region has always been fraught with scandals involving crooked politicians, but never have investiga-

tions hit so high. It's a new indication that these small, yet strategically located countries long known for unpunished corruption may be more willing to go after the powers that be. The Honduran government announced Thursday that the U.S. has requested extradition of former President Rafael Leonardo Callejas on charges of taking bribes for television contracts through his position

as head of the Honduran Soccer Federation. The same day, a judge in El Salvador ordered former President Francisco Flores to stand trial for allegedly diverting \$15 million in donations for earthquake victims to his personal and political party accounts during his 1999-2004 term. But the most dramatic example is Otto Perez Molina, who was taken down by corruption charges in

September while still sitting as Guatemala's president — an unprecedented act since democracy took hold in Latin America. He is now jailed along with his former vice president, both facing graft charges.

"We're finally beginning to see countries willing to investigate and try to hold accountable people who were previously untouchable," said Eric Olson, associate director of the Latin American program at the Wilson Center think tank in Washington. "This is more than just more of the same, especially in Guatemala. And that has other sitting presidents quite nervous."

Experts cite two main reasons for the change: a more vibrant civil society and outside intervention. Latin America just experienced a "golden decade," in which strong economic GDP growth produced an emerging middle class fed up with corruption and more demanding of government officials, said Daniel Zovatto, regional director for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance.

Guatemala and Honduras have seen diverse groups of various classes taking to

the streets to protest corruption. On Thursday, Hondurans publicly cheered the indictment of Callejas, chanting "To jail! To jail!" While human rights violations were long the main crimes at the center of attention in the region after decades of civil wars, the galvanizing issue now is corruption.

"We had 'never again' as the theme for the massive violations of human rights in the early transition to democracy," Zovatto said. "Now in the more advanced stage, the new 'never again' has to do with corruption."

Even so, the traditionally weak and politically malleable institutions in these countries cannot carry out the sentiments of the population. Most federal prosecutors remain political arms of the presidency. All three recent cases have required help from the outside — the United States for Honduras and El Salvador, a U.N.-backed international prosecutorial commission in Guatemala.

The U.S. is prosecuting Callejas, but the Honduran government is fully cooperating with extradition of a man who remains a very powerful figure.

El Salvador's case against Flores started with a suspicious activities report by the U.S. Treasury Department that was revealed last year by then President Mauricio Funes.

Perez Molina was brought down by the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala, an international group of independent prosecutors who uncovered a large government fraud ring requiring businesses to pay kickbacks in exchange for lower import duties.

## Dominican court strikes down law on certain abortions

**SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP)** — A Dominican court has blocked a new law that would have decriminalized abortions for the first time if a pregnant woman's life was at risk, backing a complaint filed by several religious groups.

The ruling issued late last week by the Constitutional Tribunal cannot be appealed and upholds a law from 1884. The new law was

scheduled to go into effect Dec. 27. Critics of the ruling said it will put the health of women at risk.

"This decision takes women's and girls' human rights back to the 19th century," said Erika Guevara, an Amnesty International director. "Its impact will be catastrophic for women and girls in the Dominican Republic who will continue to be criminalized, stigmatized and forced to

seek out unsafe abortions because they are denied access to safe and legal medical treatment."

Human rights groups estimate nearly 85,000 clandestine abortions are performed every year in the Dominican Republic, with some 15,000 women being hospitalized in serious condition as a result.

The Constitutional Tribunal expects to issue an explanation for its ruling in the

coming days. Happy Marriage, one of the groups that filed the complaint, said the law violated the constitution, which states that the right to life begins when a couple conceives. Abortions in cases of rape, incest or fetus malformation remain illegal in the Dominican Republic despite an earlier request from President Danilo Medina that legislators reverse that law as well.





## PWA Slalom Airwaves Noumea PWA Dream Cup: Sarah-Quita Offringa Wraps Up a Dream Season for 2015!



fall and had a lot of work to do in order to finish in the top 4 to qualify for the final race. Although there was no pressure on SQ entering the final day this was not the way SQ had envi-



**ORANJESTAD/NEW CALEDONIA** - Noumea delivered world class racing on the last day of the event as trade winds between 20-30 knots provided another exhilarating day of slalom, which saw the women's fleet totaling 19 women hailing from almost each continent complete a total of 20 races of which 10 qualifying races during six days. The conditions were tough and challenging at the same time due to the chops and trade winds with an occasional turtle,

manta ray or sea cow on the course. Each day the course would be a 4 or 6 buoy slalom race making it an endurance race for the sailors. As the days progressed Sarah-Quita alternated for a day the lead position with Delphine. Fatigue started to set in as the daily dose of races were physically demanding. The second to last qualifying race (#19) saw Sarah-Quita collide at the start and then go down hard at the third buoy and was not able to recover quickly in her usual manner from this

sioned to run the last race. The Aruban gem wanted to end the event on a high. For a while it looked as though she may miss out on the final winners' final of the week, however the Aruban wizard somehow made her way back through the field turning on the afterburners to blitz her way from second last at buoy 3 to make it into the last qualifying all important fourth spot to compete in the winner's final. With the points accumulated until then it was mathematically

a done deal to obtain the world title as it was impossible for her to now finish outside of the top 8. The last winners' final was a drag race between the top four sailors Cousin, Erdil Offringa and Unlu. Finishing in third saw Sarah-Quita become sub-champion of the event in Noumea.

-Overall Standings of the 2015 Airwaves Noumea Dream Cup - Women's  
1st Delphine Cousin 2100 pts  
2nd Sarah-Quita Offringa 2067 pts

3rd Lena Erdil 2034 pts  
With this result at the event in Noumea, new Caledonia Sarah-Quita Offringa accumulated a total of 6267 pts of the 6300 giving her the 2015 PWA Women's Slalom World Champion title which according to a post on her FB page was: "something I wanted badly since I finished my studies".  
-Overall Rankings of the 2015 PWA Slalom World Tour - Women's  
1st Sarah-Quita Offringa 6267 prs  
2nd Delphine Cousin 6102 pts  
3rd Lena Erdil 6032 pts  
4th Marion Mortefon  
5th Fulya Ünlü  
Sarah-Quita Offringa now has two slalom world titles to her name and this caps off a magnificent 2015 season for the Aruban gem, who won an incredible 8th freestyle world crown earlier in the year, and a third place on the prestigious podium in the waves for the first time in her career.

Continued on Page 16



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You both have demonstrated what true love means and have been the greatest role model for me while growing up.

It's rare to see such pure love as you two have. I am so blessed to have fantastic parents who are hard



workers and demonstrate strong ethics and morals.

Thank you for your love and setting a great example for

me.

Here's to many more years

together. Cheers!

--Lindsey Szebeni. ☐





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**Continued from Page 13**

With these achievements Sarah-Quita Offringa accomplished her vision which was to compete on the full 2015 PWA windsurf tour in all three disciplines namely slalom, freestyle and waves and to complete the mission to make it onto the overall podium of each discipline by focusing on one event at a time. In between the 13 women's events of the year Sarah-Quita also produced a movie with film maker Julien Robinet which is a documentary of her life as a windsurfer in search of perfect windsurfing spots

all over the world and the lonesome life led in the face of extreme conditions such as Icelandic cold and the heat of the Australian desert. The movie "Cabeibusha" – The curly gem – premieres in Aruba early January 2016.





# Bubba Watson Wins Hero World Challenge by 3 Shots

Page 18



Buffalo Bills quarterback Tyrod Taylor, right, dives in for a touchdown as Houston Texans strong safety Quintin Demps defends during the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015, in Orchard Park, N.Y. The Bills scrapped to a hard-fought 30-21 win over the Texans.

(AP Photo/Gary Wiepert)

**ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)** When it came time to pick his starting quarterback last summer, Bills coach Rex Ryan insisted Tyrod Taylor

was just as effective a passer as he was a runner. Some three months later, and with Buffalo in jeopardy of fading out of the AFC

playoff race, Taylor put his dual-threat ability on display by staring down the Houston Texans and their J.J. Watt-led de-

fense. The first-year starter threw three touchdown passes - including a 40-yarder to Charles Clay with 1:53 left -

and scored another rushing to secure a 30-21 victory Sunday.

Continued on Page 19

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## Bubba Watson wins Hero World Challenge by 3 shots

**DOUG FERGUSON**

**AP Golf Writer**

**NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)**

— A few years after Bubba Watson made it onto the PGA Tour, he started waking up early to play practice rounds with Tiger Woods. He didn't ask a lot of questions of the world's No. 1 player who already had 14 majors when he was 32.

"I learn by watching and listening," Watson said. "So I just watched. How would you not want to learn from the best player of our generation?"

Woods, the tournament host, was watching Sunday as Watson delivered a performance that looked familiar in its efficiency. Staked to a two-shot lead going into the final round, Watson made four birdies in seven holes and was never seriously challenged.

He sailed home to a 6-under 66 and a three-shot victory over Patrick Reed at Albany Golf Club in the Hero World Challenge. Watson wasn't even planning to play this week. He turned down his invitation a few months ago be-

cause he didn't have a passport for his newly adopted daughter, Dakota. But when PGA champion Jason Day backed out to stay home with his newborn daughter, Watson's wife was able to expedite all the right documents for the family to come over to the Bahamas.

He left with a \$1 million payoff and a firm grasp on No. 4 in the world the rest of the year.

"I guess I've got to thank Jason Day for backing out. I have to thank the U.S. government and passport



**Tournament host Tiger Woods, left, poses with Bubba Watson and Watson's son, Caleb, after he won the Hero World Challenge in Nassau, Bahamas on Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015.**

(J.D. Cuban/TWF via AP)

office for getting Dakota a passport so we could be here," Watson said. "For us, it's a good ride, a fun ride." Even if it didn't feel easy to him, it sure looked that way.

Watson didn't make a bogey all weekend until the final hole, when he jokingly asked NBC field reporter Notah Begay how many shots he needed to win. He played it safe and made bogey, and all that cost him was the tournament record. Watson finished at 25-under 263, one shot from Jordan Spieth's record last year at Isleworth. Reed also had a 66 to finish

alone in second, moving him to No. 10 in the world for the first time. Rickie Fowler had a 64 to finish third.

Spieth tried to stay in range and was three shots behind until he missed a 4-foot birdie putt on the ninth hole and never converted many chances after that. He ended his year with a 67, and walking up the 18th, he and caddie Michael Greller allowed for a quick reflection. "Michael said, 'Hey, man, it's been an honor to be in the passenger seat, sitting shotgun for this ride. Thanks for everything,'" Spieth said. □

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# Tyrod Taylor Leads Bills to 30-21 Win Over Texans



Buffalo Bills wide receiver Sammy Watkins (14) makes a touchdown catch on a pass from Tyrod Taylor, not pictured, as Houston Texans strong safety Kevin Johnson (30) defends during the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015, in Orchard Park, N.Y. The Bills scrapped to a hard-fought 30-21 win over the Texans.

(AP Photo/Bill Wipperf)

## Continued from Page 17

"I think he's legit," Ryan said afterward. "I think he's real. And people are starting to realize that." Taylor completed 11 of 21 attempts for 211 yards, was sacked just once and added 28 yards rushing. He showed little fear in throwing into double coverage, completing a pair of 53-yard passes to Sammy Watkins. And Taylor played with poise in finding Clay running down the field wide open for the game-deciding touchdown. That score came after the Bills' offense sputtered - five punts and Dan Carpenter's missed field goal - on its first six drives of the second half. Facing second-and-7, Taylor found Clay running alone over the middle as both Texans defenders shaded their coverage

toward backup tight end Matthew Mulligan along the right sideline.

"He just keeps on getting better and better," said Ryan, who held his breath when seeing Clay open. "I was just, please don't miss the layup."

The Bills (6-6), who never trailed, snapped a two-game skid and gained ground in the playoff picture by beating a Texans team that entered ahead of them in the standings.

Houston dropped to 6-6 and had a four-game winning streak snapped.

"What I told the team was, 'Look, we have to do better,'" coach Bill O'Brien said.

"It starts with me. We've got to do a better job. But we've got to quickly turn the page."

The Texans defense sagged and its Watt-led pass rush was rendered ineffective by several misdi-

rections and running back LeSean McCoy's ability to beat defenders to the sideline.

The Bills managed 390 yards against a defense that had given up an average of 250 over its past four games.

And Watt was essentially left grabbing at air. Entering the game with an NFL-leading 13 1/2 sacks, Watt was limited to four tackles, and had his one sack negated by offsetting penalties.

Watt acknowledged Taylor's scrambling ability made it difficult to catch him.

"A little bit," Watt said. "We just need to play better. We need to execute better. We need to do our

jobs better."

The Texans' offense also lacked consistency.

Brian Hoyer finished 26 of 44 for 293 yards with three touchdowns but was unable to deliver in the clutch. Hoyer threw four consecutive incompletions on the Texans' drive after Clay's touchdown.

The Bills took over and Carpenter secured the win with a 36-yard field goal with 33 seconds remaining. Carpenter otherwise struggled, missing a 50-yard field goal attempt and an extra point.

McCoy had 112 yards rushing. Watkins had 109 yards receiving and a touchdown.

Taylor signed with the Bills as a free agent in March

after spending his first four NFL seasons as Joe Flacco's backup in Baltimore. Taylor is 6-4 and already holds several team records. He set a single-game mark for quarterbacks with 76 yards rushing in a 14-13 win over Tennessee on Oct. 11. Against the Texans, Taylor extended his streak to 187 attempts without an interception and broke the franchise record of 175 that was set by Drew Bledsoe in 2002. He has combined for 15 touchdowns - including two rushing - with one interception and one last fumble in his past eight starts.

"He is our leader. He is our quarterback," Watkins said. "He is just getting better every week with leading this team." □

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# Leishman wins by 6 strokes in Sun City

**SUN CITY, South Africa (AP)** — Marc Leishman picked up his maiden European Tour title on Sunday with a six-stroke victory at the Nedbank Challenge.

The Australian, who started the final round ahead of Henrik Stenson by one shot, carded a 5-under 67 to finish on 19-under 269. He won \$1.25 million.

The 32-year-old Leishman's previous best finish on the tour was at this year's British Open, when he lost a play-off to Zach Johnson.

Three straight birdies either side of the turn meant that Stenson trailed by two shots with eight holes to play, but the Swede finished poorly to shoot a par 72 on the day.

"I knew it was going to be a really tough day, I knew I had to play well," Leishman said. "I'm really pleased that I could play as well as I did and have a little bit of a buffer there at the end."



**Marc Leishman of Australian, plays a shot on the 2nd fairway during the final round of the Golf Challenge at the Gary Player Country Club in Sun City, South Africa, Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015.**

(AP Photo/Themba Hadebe)

The turning point in the final round came at the par 3 seventh hole, when Stenson found a bunker and dropped a shot while Leishman holed a tricky 10-foot putt for birdie.

That opened up a three-shot gap between the duo, and although Stenson pulled one back at the eighth he was still forced into an aggressive game on the back nine.

While Leishman was faultless from that point on, finishing the tournament with just three bogeys in total, Stenson bogeyed Nos. 15 and 18.

"Golf's a lot easier when you don't have to make up lost ground, especially on this golf course where there's trouble everywhere," Leishman said.

The third member of the final group, Jaco van Zyl, fell

away badly after starting the day on 10 under.

The South African opened with a bogey before recovering with an excellent approach shot at the second that brought his second eagle of the week. However, he double-bogeyed the sixth to drop out of contention.

Five further bogeys saw Van Zyl card a 6-over 78 to finish tied for 13th.

Van Zyl's profligacy opened the door for England's Chris Wood (68) to finish third on 9 under.

Danny Willett of England and Frenchman Victor Dubuisson also shot 68 to share fourth place with South Africa's Branden Grace (71) and American Robert Streb (73) on 8 under.

Byeong Hun An of South Korea (68) was eighth, while South African Charl Schwartzel (70) and Thailand's Thongchai Jaidee (71) tied for ninth. □

## Australian PGA championship won by Holman in 3-way playoff

**GOLD COAST, Australia (AP)** — Australian Nathan Holman parred the first hole of a three-way playoff with American Harold Varner III and South Africa's Dylan Frittelli to win the Australian PGA championship on Sunday.

Holman, who shot a final-round 1-over 73, and Frittelli and Varner, who each had 75s, finished with even-par totals of 288 on a tough, wind-swept Royal Pines resort course. Holman led by two strokes but bogeyed his final two holes. Varner's birdie attempt on 18 that would have given him the win in regulation slid just wide of the cup. The Australian was the only one on the fairway in the play-off and hit to the middle of the green, while Frittelli and Varner were off the green after hitting their second shots from the rough. □

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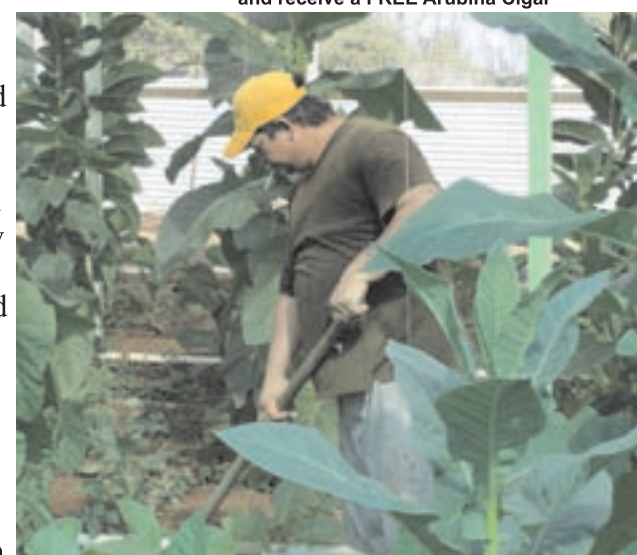
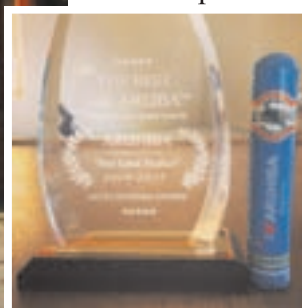


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## Michael Phelps wins 200 butterfly, two other titles

JIM HOEHN

Associated Press

FEDERAL WAY, Wash. (AP)

— Michael Phelps was pleased with his third national title in three days, viewing his dominant performance Saturday as a stepping stone toward his fifth Olympic berth.

The 18-time Olympic champion won the 200-meter butterfly in the U.S. Winter National Championships after winning the 200 individual medley Thursday and the 100 butterfly Friday at the King Aquatic Center.

Phelps finished in 1 minute, 56.11 seconds, leading comfortably at each turn. He set the world record in the event in 2009 at 1:51.51. Chase Kalisz was second at 1:57.19.

"Winning's always important, but for me it's more time-based right now," the 30-year-old Phelps said. "For one, I'm happy I didn't get run down by Chase in the last 50, that's one thing, but just for me to be able to see progress; when you are training and it is hard and it's brutal and there are some days where you just don't want to be there, if you're actually seeing success, it makes you want to go back."

"This will make me hungrier. Even though I did win and I swam good times, there are better times that I can swim before Olympic trials and that's what I'm focused on."

By the time he made the first turn at 25:27 in front of an enthusiastic capacity crowd, the race was essentially for second place. But Phelps said it provided a measuring stick for where he needs to be en route to the Olympics. □

## Late touchdown boosts Michigan State hopes

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)

— Michigan State's L.J. Scott stretched the ball over the goal line for a touchdown with 27 seconds left to secure a 16-13 win against Iowa on Saturday in the Big Ten conference championship game, all but guaranteeing the Spartans a place in the four-team College Football Playoff.

Alabama definitely secured its place as one of the four teams in the playoff by defeating Florida in the Southeastern Conference decider.

Top-ranked Clemson will also be among the four after it took out the Atlantic Coast Conference title by defeating North Carolina, and Stanford claimed the Pac-12 championship with a win against Southern California. Michigan State quarterback Connor Cook led the Spartans (12-1) on a 22-play drive that set up Scott's 1-yard run. A half-dozen Iowa defenders tried to stop Scott, but he wouldn't be denied.

Five times in the final 2 minutes, the Spartans snapped the ball from the Iowa 5-yard line or closer. Finally, after getting bottled up by three defenders on third-and-goal from



Michigan State's Aaron Burbridge (16) is tackled by Iowa's Cole Fisher (36) during the first half of the Big Ten championship NCAA college football game Saturday, Dec. 5, 2015, in Indianapolis.

(AP Photo/Darron Cummings)

the 1, Scott broke free just long enough to get the ball across the goal line for Michigan State's only TD. Iowa (12-1) lost for the first time this season.

Alabama's defense dominated Florida to secure a 29-15 win against Florida in the SEC decider.

Heisman Trophy favorite Derrick Henry ran for 189 bruising yards while the Crimson Tide's defense held the Gators to 3 yards

of offense in the second and third quarters.

Henry had a staggering 44 carries against one of the nation's top defenses to earn MVP honors.

He tied the SEC record for touchdowns in a season with 23 and eclipsed Herschel Walker's 34-year-old conference mark for yards rushing in a season with 1,986, with at least one more game left.

Clemson's Deshaun Wat-

son threw for 289 yards and three touchdowns and ran for two scores in a 45-37 win against North Carolina. Watson had 420 total yards and five total touchdowns to set ACC championship game records. North Carolina scored a touchdown with 1:13 left and appeared to recover the subsequent onside kick, but were questionably called for being offside and had to take the kick again. □

## WBA middleweight Jacobs stops Quillin in 1st round

NEW YORK (AP) — WBA middleweight champion Daniel Jacobs stopped previously undefeated challenger Peter Quillin at 1:25 of the first round in an all-Brooklyn bout Saturday night at Barclays Center. Jacobs improved to 31-1 with his 28th knockout.

Jacobs landed a straight right to Quillin's temple a minute into the fight and followed with a flurry of punches while his op-

ponent was against the ropes. Quillin (32-1-1) stumbled forward and referee Harvey Dock stopped the fight.

"I hope he's OK," Jacobs said. "I was patient and when I came with an uppercut I knew I hurt him and that's when I went for the kill. I told him I love him. Me and Peter go back to the Golden Glove days. I respect him to death, but I knew this fight would

be my night. There are no lucky shots in boxing. Obviously, I caught him with a shot. Once I knew I had him hurt I kept going."

Quillin seemed to disagree with the stoppage until watching the replay.

"That's right on the temple," Quillin said. "In the moment you don't know what happens until you see it in the replay. This is a time you sit with your family and figure out what you

have to do. I have a lot of options, maybe a rematch is the best option. I can't think of a better person to lose to than Danny Jacobs."

On the undercard, Jesus Cuellar successfully defended his WBA featherweight title with a unanimous decision over Jonathan Oquendo.

Cuellar (28-1) received winning scores of 116-111, 116-111 and 120-107. □



# Vonn wins super-G to complete Lake Louise sweep

**LAKE LOUISE, Alberta (AP)**

— Lindsey Vonn won a super-G race Sunday to complete a sweep of World Cup races at Lake Louise for the third time in her career.

The American finished in a time of 1 minute, 19.79 seconds, beating Tamara Tippler of Austria by 1.32 seconds. The margin of victory was the largest in a women's super-G since 1997,

according to information provided by the U.S. Ski Team. Another Austrian, Cornelia Huebner, was third. "Whenever you win, period, let alone by over a second, it definitely gives you that little bit extra boost of confidence," said Vonn, who has 70 career World Cup victories. "I'm feeling great, and I know my super-G is good — my downhill is pretty good — so I feel

like I'm in a good place for the next couple races." Vonn captured both downhill races over the weekend for the hat trick. Vonn also accomplished the feat at the Alberta resort in 2011 and '12. What's more, she now has 14 downhill victories and four super-G wins at a place that's referred to as "Lake Lindsey" because of her dominance.

"It was a big deal," Vonn said. "I feel like there were some people that doubted whether I could win today, and especially because Lara (Gut) had won the last couple races here in super-G."

The U.S. placed four racers in the top 20, including Laurene Ross at 12th. Olympic and world slalom champion Mikaela Shiffrin made her speed debut

Sunday and finished 15th. Vonn was certainly impressed with Shiffrin's performance.

"I watched her run and I thought she did really well," Vonn said. "In general, she's such a technically sound skier and she has such a great feel for the snow."

"I'm sure she's going to be a strong competitor here in the next couple races." □

# Hirscher cruises to World Cup giant slalom victory



Austria's Marcel Hirscher speeds down the course during the men's World Cup giant slalom ski race Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015, in Beaver Creek, Colo. (AP Photo/Nathan Bilow)

**PAT GRAHAM**  
**AP Sports Writer**

**BEAVER CREEK, Colo. (AP)**

— Austrian Marcel Hirscher held on to his first-run lead to easily win a World Cup giant slalom Sunday on a day when American Ted Ligety and some other top rivals crashed.

Fresh off his surprise super-

G win the day before, Hirscher made it through the extra grippy snow conditions in a combined time of 2 minutes, 32.58 seconds. He beat Victor Muffat-Jeandet of France by 0.98 seconds. Norway's Henrik Kristoffersen was third.

It was Hirscher's 15th gi-

ant slalom victory. With that, he became Austria's career GS victory leader, surpassing Hermann Maier and Benjamin Raich.

"We are getting closer to these records that I think are pretty heavy," said Hirscher, who spent some time fly fishing in Colorado when he wasn't racing.

"It's great to be on top of those."

Hirscher turned in a smooth, clean run and pumped his ski poles after finishing.

Once again, Hirscher had no trouble finding the fastest way down the course. He's attempting to win a fifth straight overall title this season.

"He's in first class (compared) to me," Muffat-Jeandet chuckled. "I need more podiums."

Done early in this race was Ligety, along with French racers Thomas Fanara and Alexis Pinturault. All three crashed out — right in a row, too.

It was Ligety's first "DNF" — did not finish — in a first run of a World Cup GS since 2013. He was the big favorite on this course, considering he has won five races at Birds of Prey along with a world title last February. But he struggled in snow conditions that drastically changed when the temperature significantly dropped overnight — turning the course from icy to super aggressive. Ligety

hooked an edge, tumbled to the snow and crashed through a gate before stopping.

His day was done.

"It's not cool in any kind of race when you go out," said Ligety, who won the season-opening giant slalom in Soelden, Austria, nearly two months ago. "But this one is especially a bummer, for sure."

Ligety had to wait several minutes in the start gate before his run as course workers fixed the netting after a crash by Fanara. Ligety insisted the delay was no big deal.

"It always happens," said Ligety, who complained of a "dead leg" after hitting the gate.

Pinturault also wiped out and was taken to the hospital for evaluation after hitting his head.

Norway's Aksel Lund Svindal, who won Friday's downhill race, didn't compete because of an illness. The top American finisher was Tim Jitloff. He was 14th, 2.28 seconds behind Hirscher. □

# Bowe leads another American 1-2 at speedskating World Cup

**INZELL, Germany (AP)**

— Brittany Bowe beat Heather Richardson-Bergsma to win the women's 1,500 meters for the second American 1-2 in as many days at a speedskating World Cup event on Sunday.

Bowe, who also won the 1,000 meters on Saturday, clocked 1 minute, 54.68 seconds to edge her teammate by 0.26. Marrit Leenstra of the Netherlands was

third, 1.11 behind, followed by Ida Njåtun of Norway and Martina Sablikova of the Czech Republic. Bowe leads Richardson-Bergsma by 20 points in the standings after three races. Lee Sang-hwa of South Korea won the second of the weekend's sprints in 37.36, beating Richardson-Bergsma by 0.48 and Canada's Heather McLean by 0.66.

Lee, who also won the first

sprint on Friday, extended her standings lead to 110 points over Richardson-Bergsma. Artur Was of Poland won the second men's sprint in 34.65, edging Alex Boisvert-Lacroix of Canada by 0.09 and Kai Verbij of the Netherlands by 0.15. Another Canadian, Gilmore Junio, was fourth, 0.18 behind.

Pavel Kulizhnikov of Russia still leads the standings

after winning the opening four sprints. Denis Yuskov of Russia won the men's 1,500 meters in 1:44.21 — 0.99 seconds ahead of Dutch skater Kjeld Nuis and 1.04 ahead of American Joey Mantia. Nuis leads the standings on 240 points, 20 ahead of Mantia and 40 ahead of Yuskov.

Irene Schouten of the Netherlands edged Ivanie Blondin of Canada by 0.02

seconds to win the women's mass start in 8:18.41. Park Do-young of South Korea was third, 0.20 behind. Schouten leads the standings by 50 points from Blondin after three races.

Victory in the men's mass start went to Alexis Contin of France. Contin clocked 7:33.37 to beat Jorrit Bergsma of the Netherlands by 0.39 seconds and Fabio Francolini of Italy by 0.69. □





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## Dream of being a bird? Flight simulator can bring you close

**COLLIN BINKLEY**  
**Associated Press**

**CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts (AP)** — With a few flaps of his arms, Kip Fenton soared into the New York City skyline, veering around a sea of skyscrapers as the wind whistled in his ears.

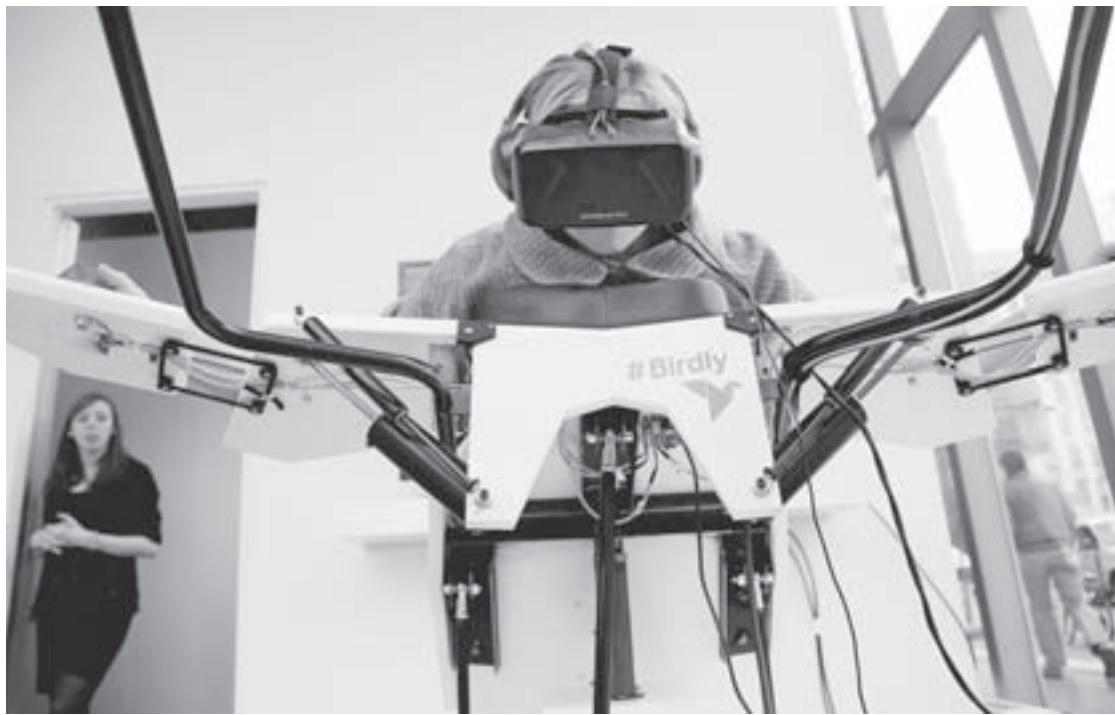
Then, all too soon, the goggles came off and he was back in a bright white room near Boston, no longer a bird but a 59-year-old software developer in blue jeans and a green plaid shirt. Outside a tall window, a man with a cellphone stopped to snap a photo of Fenton and the odd contraption that had given him the sense of flight.

"I've always wanted to fly," said Fenton. "It's sort of one of those fantasy things where, if I could be an animal, I would be a bird."

The human fascination with flight is what inspired Max Rheiner, a Swiss artist and scholar, to invent the flight simulator that Fenton tested on Thursday. Called Birdly, the prototype is being exhibited through Saturday at Le Laboratoire, a small art and design center tucked in Cambridge's sprawling technology hub. "Birdly is actually the dream of flying come true," said Rheiner, who has been taking his invention around the world since the summer of 2014.

It looks like a futuristic examination table with wings. Users climb on, belly down, and stretch their arms out to either side, resting their palms flat against tilting boards that act as the flight feathers. After they slip on a set of headphones and virtual reality goggles, the machine tilts forward to bring their legs farther off the ground.

Suddenly, the goggles fill up with a bird's eye view



**Carrie Fitzsimmons begins her first flight aboard Birdly, a virtual reality flying machine, at Le Laboratoire Cambridge in Cambridge, Mass. The simulator looks like a futuristic examining table where users lie on their bellies and spread their arms like wings. Using virtual reality goggles, they get a bird's eye view of New York City. By rotating their hands and flapping their arms, they navigate the skyline.**

(AP Photo/Stephan Savoia)

of Manhattan and everything is moving. During his test run, Fenton rotated his palms upward to climb toward the sky, the whole machine tilting his body upward, and then he reversed the motion to take a down-

ward dive. To speed up, he flapped his long arms over and over.

The whole time, a nearby fan rustled his hair, and the sound of wind whirled in the headphones. When he turned his head, he had a

sweeping view of the entire horizon.

"That was great. I loved it," he said afterward. "The turning and the diving was all pretty straightforward." Because there's no way to know how a bird feels in

flight, Rheiner and his team tried to replicate human dreams of flying.

"People who have dreams about flying, they can just fly without training and they have great feelings," he said. "We tried to model this experience like those dreams."

They aimed to make the maneuvers as intuitive as possible.

After a couple minutes, most people pick it up naturally, Rheiner said.

On Wednesday, the exhibit's opening day, more than 100 visitors lined up to spend a few minutes trying the simulator. Since then, organizers have had to take appointments. Many give rave reviews, but some found it jarring. Carrie Fitzsimmons, the art center's executive director, hopped off the simulator when it gave her vertigo.

After more than a year, the Birdly team is winding down its tour and ramping up its company, Somniacs, which plans to manufacture and sell the simulator soon. □

### Nielsen:

## Smartphones and the Internet are eating our TV time

**RYAN NAKASHIMA**  
**Associated Press**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — The use of Internet-ready devices like smartphones appears to have seriously cut into the time Americans spend watching traditional TV, new Nielsen data show, potentially undermining the notion that mobile devices merely serve as "second screens" while people are plopped in front of the set. Data provided to The Associated Press show an increase in the number of 18-to-34-year-olds who used a smartphone, tablet

or TV-connected device like a streaming box or game console. That grew 26 percent in May compared with a year earlier, to an average of 8.5 million people per minute.

Those devices, which all showed gains in usage, more than offset declines in traditional TV, radio and computers. In the same age group, the demographic most highly coveted by advertisers, use of those devices fell 8 percent over the same period to a combined 16.6 million people per minute.

It's not a one-to-one tradeoff, though. Sometimes people are using smartphones while watching TV, or using them outside the home where it wouldn't cut into TV time. In addition, some mobile device use is, well, to watch TV shows. Nielsen's inaugural "Comparable Metrics" report for the first time presents data on average use per minute, making it possible to directly compare various devices. The study counts all apps, Web surfing and game play but not texts or calling.

The results confirm a trend in other Nielsen data that found viewing of traditional TV — through a cable or satellite connection or an antenna — peaked in the 2009-10 season.

"It's pretty clear the increased use of mobile devices is having some effect on the system as a whole," said Glenn Enoch, Nielsen's senior vice president of audience insights.

The audience for TV viewing alone fell by 10 percent, to 8.4 million people a minute, in the 18-to-34-year-old category. □



## Of Mutual Interest: Despite flat market, many funds will deliver taxable gains

**STAN CHOE**  
**AP Business Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Never mind that this year has largely been a dud for stocks. A tax bill is still coming for many mutual-fund investors.

Now that December is here, funds are lining up to pass along something called a capital-gains distribution to their shareholders. It's about as appetizing as it sounds.

Investors who hold mutual funds outside a 401(k) or another tax-advantaged account must pay taxes on these distributions, even if they don't sell any shares. And the bills could be big: More than a dozen funds have already said they expect to pass along distributions in coming weeks that are more than 30 percent of their total assets.

Several factors are behind this year's distributions, from home-run stock picks made years ago to the recent surge in corporate takeovers. But first, a reminder on what causes distributions and how they affect investors.

When a fund sells a stock, it records how much it made or lost on it. At the end of the year, it totals the gains it made from trading and distributes those gains to shareholders.

Say you hold a mutual fund whose shares currently trade at \$10 each. That fund may distribute \$2 per share in capital gains to you at the end of the year. You have to pay taxes on those gains if you hold the

fund in a taxable account, even if you didn't sell any shares. Long-term gains generally qualify for lower rates than short-term gains. The value of your holdings won't normally change as a result of the distribution,

The main reason for the jump is that AIG did what shareholders hoped it would after Fairholme Fund bought it in 2010 and 2011: It surged. AIG generated more than \$2 billion in gains for the fund by June of this

ers expect to pass along distributions of \$3.74 per share, which is about 9 percent of its total assets, as of Wednesday. Last year's was \$1.63.

Earlier this year, one of its investments, Medtronic,



**Trader George Ettinger works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Never mind that this year has largely been a dud for stocks. A tax bill is still coming for many mutual-fund investors.**

**(AP Photo/Richard Drew)**

which often gets reinvested in the fund. The price of each fund share in this example would drop to \$8 when it made the distribution of \$2, leaving you with the same \$10 per share.

The Fairholme Fund expects to make distributions of \$11.55 to \$12.35 per share next week. That's equal to about 35 percent of the fund's assets, as of Wednesday, and would dwarf last year's distribution of \$3.08 per share.

year. And when it sold AIG shares, it recorded a big gain. Another reason for this year's rise in distributions is the explosion in corporate takeovers. Companies are finding it difficult to drum up revenue growth given the still-temperamental global economy, so they're buying competitors instead. Others are combining in cross-border deals to lower their tax rates.

At the Jensen Quality Growth Fund, manag-

completed its \$42.9 billion acquisition of Covidien. The deal created a tax bill. The fund also recorded big gains from sales of its holdings in Automatic Data Processing and Equifax. The fund took the unusual step of explaining what was behind the distribution to shareholders in a notice on its website and in general conversations, says Dave Mertens, managing director at Jensen Investment Management. □

## Wal-Mart suing Puerto Rico over 'unfair' tax hike

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)**

— Wal-Mart's Puerto Rico operation is asking the federal court in San Juan to void what it calls an "onerous" and "unconstitutional" tax that unfairly targets the U.S. retail giant.

It said in court papers filed Friday that the increased levy on purchases from U.S.-based Wal-Mart distribution centers by its island entities constitutes one of the world's highest taxes and pushes its effective tax rate to 91.5 percent of net income. The tax increase will cost Wal-Mart \$155 million over six years and make its Puerto Rico business unsustainable.

The suit says that Puerto Rico's Act 72 specifically targets "megastores" such as Wal-Mart that have U.S. mainland-based related entities because local operations are exempt from the tax. It said Treasury Secretary Juan Zaragoza and other top government officials untruthfully accused it of evading taxes by manipulating the prices paid between related entities to underreport Puerto Rico income.

"In addition to punishing multi-national corporations for assumed tax evasion, Act 72's precursor also had an additional purpose: To protect and promote local businesses," the suit states.

Puerto Rico Treasury Department officials did not immediately respond on Saturday to requests for comment.

The lawsuit argues the tax violates the interstate commerce and equal protection clauses of the U.S. Constitution and Federal Relations Act. It asks the court for swift action because the commonwealth's fiscal crisis may impede its ability to refund tax payments found to be unconstitutional.

The government announced in June it would seek to restructure its nearly \$72 billion debt with an economy that has been declining for more than a decade. □

## Head of China's 4th largest bank resigns amid probe

**BEIJING (AP)** — The head of China's fourth-largest state bank has resigned citing personal reasons amid reports of his involvement in a corruption investigation.

No details were given about the departure of Agricultural Bank of China president Zhang Yun, according to reports appearing Saturday.

The resignation of the 56-year-old executive

comes amid an ongoing campaign against corruption in the Chinese government, the military and state industries.

A massive stock market sell-off over the summer has also lately focused investigators' gaze on the financial sector.

The respected financial weekly Caixin reported that Zhang had been demoted and placed under

two years' probation in October after being investigated by the ruling Communist Party's anti-corruption watchdog body over a series of cases. Reports also said a subordinate in the bank's Shenzhen branch had been placed under investigation for corruption earlier in the year.

A notice Friday on the Hong Kong stock exchange's website said Zhang's resig-

nation took immediate effect and that there were no matters in relations to his case that should "be brought to the attention of the shareholders or creditors of the bank."

With the economy slowing, profits among China's top four state-run banks slumped in the first three quarters of the year, with Agricultural Bank's rising by just 0.57 percent. □



## Another month of solid US hiring clears way for Fed hike

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — If the Federal Reserve needed any final evidence that the economy is ready for higher interest rates, it got it on Friday.

A solid November job gain of 211,000 showed that despite weak overseas growth and struggling U.S. factories, the U.S. economy appears healthy enough to withstand a Fed hike from record-low rates later this month. The unemployment rate remained at a low 5 percent in November for a second straight month, the government said Friday. More Americans started looking for jobs, and nearly all found them.

Average hourly pay rose, though modestly, and the government revised up its estimate of job growth for September and October. Employers have now added a robust average 213,000 jobs a month over the past six months.

The healthy jobs figures indicate that consumer spending is helping the economy surmount some lingering challenges. They include a strong dollar, which has made exports pricier overseas and squeezed U.S. manufacturers, and sinking oil prices, which have led drilling companies to slash orders for steel pipes and other equipment.

Even so, Americans are spending more on restaurant meals and on big-ticket items like cars and homes.

The U.S. economy "is strong enough to withstand an initial hike in interest rates from what were seen as emergency record-low levels," said Chris Williamson, chief economist at Markit. "A December rate hike now looks to be in the bag." The economy's strengths were evident in last month's hiring patterns: Construction firms added 46,000 jobs, the biggest increase in two years. Spending on construction projects, including homes, roads and office towers, reached an eight-year high in October.

In addition, restaurants added 31,500 positions, retailers nearly 31,000. Investors cheered the jobs report, which helped send the Dow Jones industrial average soaring 360 points in afternoon trading.

This week, Fed Chair Janet Yellen said the economy appeared to be improving enough to justify a rate hike as long as no major shocks undermined growth before the Fed meets Dec. 15-16. The Fed has kept its key short-term rate at a record low near zero for seven years. A Fed rate hike typically lifts interest rates for mortgages, auto loans and other borrowing, though those increases might not occur immediately.

For the Fed, conditions seem nearly ideal for a period of small and only gradual rate increases in coming months: Job growth has been solid, and wages have begun to rise but not so much as to cause con-



**Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen leaves after speaking at the Economics Club of Washington in Washington. Yellen indicated that the U.S. economy is on track for an interest rate hike this month, but the Fed will need to review incoming data before making a final decision.**

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

cern about future high inflation.

Since the recession ended, average hourly pay has grown at only about two-thirds of the pace typical of a healthy economy.

In November, average hourly wages rose 2.3 percent from 12 months earlier to \$25.25. That is below October's annual increase, which had been the strongest in six years. It's still far below the roughly 3.5 percent pace typical of a strong economy.

Still, many economists say they're optimistic that Americans' pay will keep rising. Companies are advertising near-record levels

of available jobs. And layoffs are at very low levels. Both figures point to strong demand for workers.

"Companies are holding onto people pretty tightly, and at some point that's going to manifest itself in higher wages," said Michael Dolega, senior economist at TD Bank. "Their workers are going to get poached. They are going to have sweeten the deal at some point."

Sarah Raminhos landed a new accounting job last month at a firm in Chevy Chase, Maryland, with a salary about 5 percent higher than her old one. She saw more opportunities

than she did during a previous job search two years earlier and even felt confident enough to turn down offers.

"This time, I felt like I could be a more picky," said Raminhos, 29.

Dolega said wage gains are being held back by steep job cuts in mining, a category that consists mostly of oil and gas drilling and has shed 14 percent of its jobs in the past year. Government data show that drilling firms were handing out big raises as recently as last year to attract workers, but average pay in the industry is now declining. □

## European bank head Draghi says he's ready to do more

KEN SWEET

AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — European Central Bank President Mario Draghi said this weekend the bank is ready to expand its economic stimulus program if need be, just after the bank's surprisingly modest steps to shore up the region's economy sent shudders through global financial markets.

"We are ready at any time to recalibrate our array of tools," Draghi said.

The comments came dur-

ing a speech at a meeting of the Economic Club of New York on Friday. On Thursday in Frankfurt the ECB announced a slight cut in one of its key interest rates, but it declined to step up its monthly purchases of bonds, as investors had expected, to reduce borrowing costs for consumers and businesses. Investor disappointment about the decision sent European stock markets to one of their worst days in months. Draghi seemed to want

to ease investor concerns Friday, repeating both in his speech and in response to questions from a panel that the ECB can expand its bond-buying program, known as quantitative easing,

or cut interest rates even further, if necessary.

When asked by one of the panelists if was trying to clarify what the ECB did this week, Draghi said jokingly: "No...not really. Well, of course."

European markets were

closed for the day when Draghi appeared. U.S. stocks were sharply higher Friday, and they extended their gains after Draghi began speaking at midday Eastern time. The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 2 percent. The euro was mostly unchanged against the dollar at \$1.0870, after surging on Thursday.

Europe's economy has lagged behind the U.S. since the financial crisis, and policymakers have

struggled to keep the 19 countries that use the euro from economic contraction.

The ECB started its bond-buying program in 2014, several years after the Federal Reserve started its program.

Draghi cautioned, though, that the ECB's ability to stimulate growth — even if it does take further action — is limited.

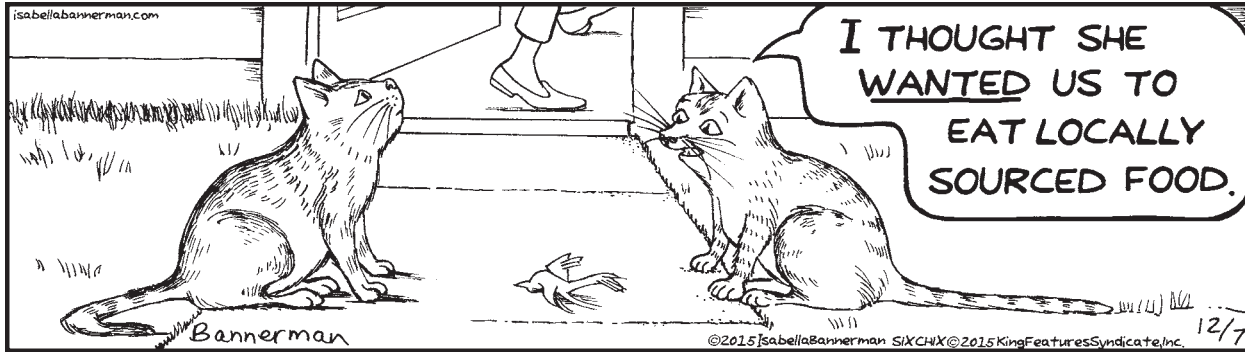
"Our monetary policy cannot achieve everything," he said. □



## Mutts



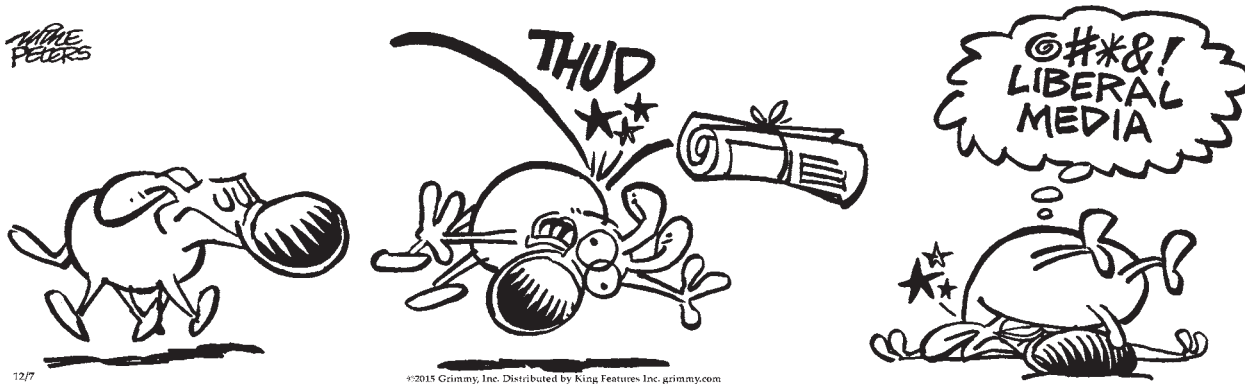
## 6 Chix



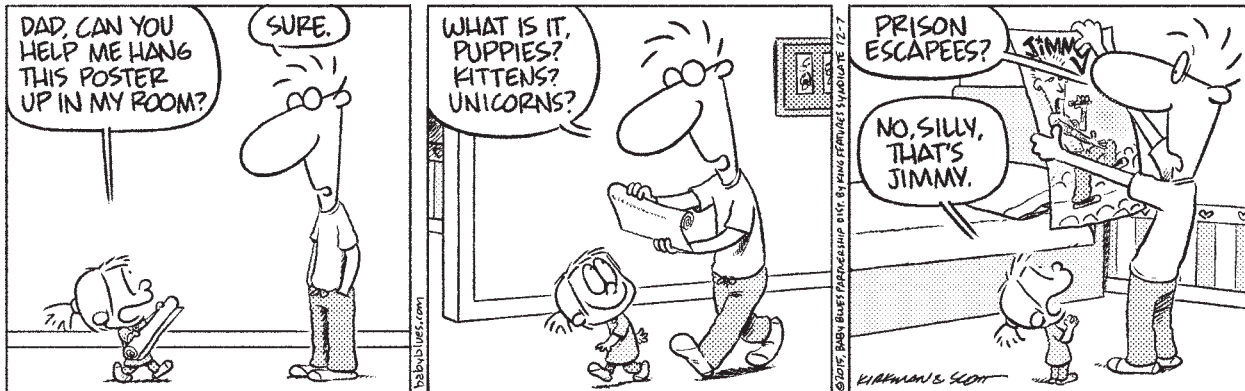
## Blondie



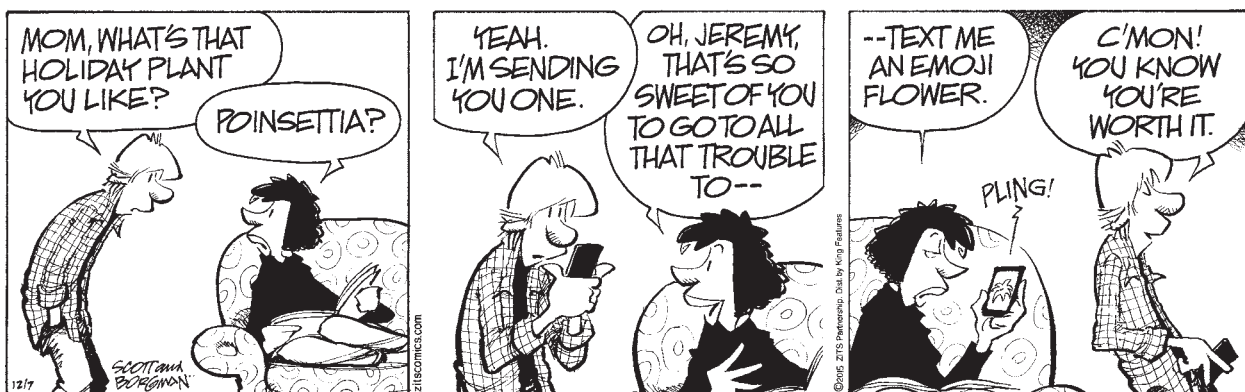
## Mother Goose & Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

	1		9	2				
7			6			5		
		5		7		3	1	
9	7				3			
1		4				2		7
			4				6	3
	8	1		6		4		
		3			8			5
				5	2		9	

Difficulty Level ★

12/07

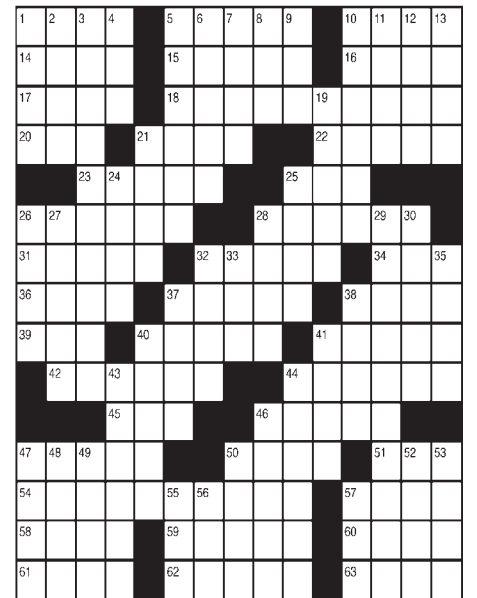
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

9	4	6	3	7	5	2	8	1
2	7	1	8	9	6	3	4	5
3	5	8	1	4	2	6	7	9
1	2	3	4	6	8	5	9	7
8	6	7	5	2	9	1	3	4
5	9	4	7	3	1	8	6	2
4	1	5	6	8	7	9	2	3
7	8	9	2	5	3	4	1	6
6	3	2	9	1	4	7	5	8

## ACROSS

- Floating chunk of ice
- Juice flavor
- Farm machine
- Pain
- Bring down
- Sioux City's state
- Sharpen
- Touting too highly
- Dobbs or Ferrigno
- Had unpaid bills
- Dishwasher cycle
- Ore seeker
- HST's successor
- Deposited
- Pine-covered
- Ceremonies
- More devious
- Cotton \_\_; Eli Whitney's idea
- Passionate
- Housetops
- Impatient chess player's cry
- Positive reply
- In a \_\_; sort of
- Large parrot
- Hits hard
- Regret strongly
- Slender stick
- Hell's ruler
- Nanook of the North's house
- Overdue
- JFK's youngest brother
- Indirect
- Cafeteria patron's need
- "Kiss Me, \_\_"; Broadway hit
- Hula or twist
- Get up
- Toboggan
- Transparent
- Plays a role



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/7/15

## Saturday's Puzzle Solved

CRIB	KEACH	SCUM
LACE	EAGLE	ALSO
AVES	BROIL	TUES
MEDICAL	EERIE	ST
EBB	INNER	
DRAGS	BLT	BEACH
ROSE	HAL	NESTLE
ADS	RENEWAL	AAA
FEELER	GAB	SLIP
TOTEM	MAX	PALMS
FINAL	JAB	
SPOTTED	SORBETS	
TAXI	VAGUE	ACHE
AGES	EMERY	THEE
BENT	REEFS	HONK

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12/7/15

## DOWN

- Cry hard
- Canyon sound
- Arthritis

- Tall marsh stalk
- One of the Three Bears
- for; signified
- Partner
- Pressed
- Second of two
- Tabasco
- Annoys

- Hockey score
- Early guitar
- "The \_\_ Ranger"
- Vane direction
- Coloring liquids
- Billboards
- "Nonsense!"
- "-la-la..."



## AP Poll: Ecology and religion are natural mix for some Americans

CONNIE  
EMILY SWANSON  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — As a group, the most religious Americans are less likely than others in the U.S. to trust the science of global warming. Yet one group of faithful Americans not only believes the threat is real, but also feels obliged to help save Earth's climate, an analysis by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and Yale University shows. "The Bible has always been clear about the call to care for the world that God has created and to love our neighbors," said Rachel Lamb, 26, a national organizer for Young Evangelicals for Climate Action and the daughter of a Baptist minister. She notes that the poor will suffer most from the consequences of a warming climate, making it particularly compelling to Christians.

"When you see something like climate change, we can't ignore it," Lamb said. "We have to act."

As an international conference in Paris enters its second week in hopes of agreement on a plan to curtail global warming, Lamb and others like her see that issue as more than a secular one for government leaders.

The AP-NORC and Yale analysis of Americans' environmental attitudes identified nine distinct segments of the U.S. population, each with a different relationship with the environment. Members of one group, called the "Religious Greens," are among those most likely to attend church at least once a week. A majority of this group trusts their religious beliefs over scientific explanations when the two conflict.

At the same time, 9 in 10 of them believe global warming is happening, and 7 in 10 believe the environmental crisis is more serious than most people think.

They are among the most likely of the nine groups to support environmentally

CASS

friendly policies, too.

Eight in 10 favor regulating carbon dioxide emissions, compared with only 6 in 10 of all Americans. Nearly 9 in 10 of the Religious Greens favor funding research into renewable energy sources, compared with less than 7 in 10 of all Americans.

Despite their views, just 2 in 10 of this highly spiritual group call themselves environmentalists.

There is a long history of people of faith serving as stewards of God's creation, and Pope Francis released an encyclical on the environment this year. But the environmental movement in the U.S. mostly has a secular image.

Indeed, a majority of the two groups in the study who are most environmentally minded — the "Liberal Greens" and the "Outdoor Greens" — say they're only slightly or not at all religious. Few among these two groups trust religious beliefs over scientific explanations.

Overall, the AP-NORC polling shows that 63 percent of the least religious Americans think global warming is real, while only 43 percent of those who describe themselves as "very religious" believe it's happening.

That may reflect the tension between religion and environmentalism in U.S. politics.

The 2016 Republican presidential candidates most aggressively seeking Christian votes are dismissive of climate change.

Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, has accused government scientists of "cooking the books" to falsely portray a warming planet.

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, a Southern Baptist pastor before he got into politics, questioned climate change science and mocked Democratic President Barack Obama for saying there's no greater threat to future generations.

Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson says he doesn't believe in global warming or evolution. □

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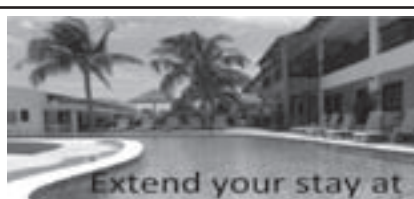
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wk 38	room 529	\$4,750
wk 40	room 336	\$3,750
wk 40	room 105	\$5,000
wk 42	room 338	\$4,000
wk 43	room 329	\$3,250
wk 49	room 144	\$5,500
wk 49	room 571	\$3,750
wk 48	room 517	\$3,750
wk 48 or 49	room 119	\$4,750
wk 48 or 49	room 551	\$5,500
wk 49 or 50	room 203	\$5,500
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## Liftoff: 1st US shipment in months flying to space station

MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.

(AP) — A U.S. shipment of much-needed groceries and other astronaut supplies rocketed toward the International Space Station for the first time in months Sunday, reigniting NASA's commercial delivery service.

If the Orbital ATK capsule arrives at the space station Wednesday as planned, it will represent the first U.S. delivery since spring.

To NASA's relief, the weather cooperated after three days of high wind and cloudy skies that kept the Atlas V rocket firmly on the ground. Everything came together on the fourth launch attempt, allowing the unmanned Atlas to blast off in late afternoon with 7,400 pounds of space station cargo, not to mention some Christmas presents for the awaiting crew. Tony Bruno, president of rocket maker United Launch Alliance urged, "Everyone cross your fingers and think happy weather thoughts."



The United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket stands ready for launch at launch complex 41 at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, in Cape Canaveral, Fla. The shipment of much-needed groceries and other astronaut supplies rocketed toward the International Space Station for the first time in months Sunday, reigniting NASA's commercial delivery service.

(AP Photo/John Raoux)

It apparently worked.

The rocket soared safely

through clouds, as the space station sped over

the Atlantic, north Bermuda.

Launch controllers applauded, shook hands and hugged one another once the Cygnus cargo carrier reached the proper orbit 21 minutes after liftoff.

"This is about as good as it gets," said Vernon Thorp, a United Launch Alliance manager.

The space station astronauts got to see some of the rocket contrails.

"Caught something good on the horizon," Space Station Commander Scott Kelly reported via Twitter.

The six station astronauts — two of them deep into a one-year mission — have gone without American shipments since April. Two private companies contracted for more than \$3.5 billion by NASA to replenish the 250-mile-high lab are stuck on Earth with grounded rockets. Orbital ATK bought another company's rocket, the veteran Atlas V, for this supply mission.

Orbital's previous grocery run, its fourth, ended in a fiery explosion seconds af-

ter liftoff in October 2014. SpaceX, the other supplier, suffered a launch failure in June on its eighth trip.

Russia also lost a supply ship earlier this year. But it's since picked up the slack, with another resupply mission scheduled just before Christmas, and Japan has chipped in as well.

Much-needed food is inside Orbital's cargo carrier, named Cygnus after the swan constellation. NASA normally likes to have a six-month stash of food aboard the space station, but it's down a couple months because of the three failed flights. Space station program manager Kirk Shireman expects it will take another year to get the pantry full again — provided there are no more accidents. Also aboard the newest Cygnus capsule: clothes, toiletries, space-walking gear, air-supply tanks and science experiments. This is the first time that the United Launch Alliance's Atlas V has served the space station. Normally used for hefty satellite launches, it is the mighty successor to the Atlas used to put John Glenn into orbit in 1962. Boeing intends to use the Atlas V to boost the Starliner capsules it's building to ferry astronauts to the space station beginning in 2017. Orbital plans to use another Atlas rocket for a supply run in March, then return its own Antares rocket to flight from Virginia in May. SpaceX — also part of NASA's commercial crew effort — aims to restart station deliveries in January with its Falcon rockets. While acknowledging 2015 has been a difficult year because of the disrupted supply chain, Shireman said commercial space is inevitable and will drive down launch costs. □

## FDA OKs first generic for Gleevec leukemia pill

LINDA A. JOHNSON

Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — U.S.

regulators have approved the first generic version of one of the first very effective — and expensive — cancer drugs, Gleevec, which costs about \$10,000 a month.

The Food and Drug Administration granted a subsidiary of Indian drugmaker Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. approval to sell generic Gleevec, known as imatinib mesylate, in 100-milligram and 400-milligram pills for chronic myeloid leukemia.

Mumbai-based Sun Pharmaceutical, a top maker of generic medicines, said Friday that it will begin selling the once-a-day pill in the U.S. on Feb. 1, 2016.

Gleevec, developed and sold by Swiss drugmaker Novartis AG, was approved in 2003. It was quickly hailed as a near-cure, transforming chronic myeloid leukemia from an almost universally fatal disease to one manageable with long-term medication. It's also approved to treat acute lymphoblastic leukemia and several other cancer types, in adults and

children.

Gleevec, known as Glivec in some other countries, is the top-selling drug for Novartis, with 2014 global sales of \$4.75 billion, about \$2.5 billion of that from U.S. sales.

It currently has a U.S. list price of about \$10,000 per month for the more-common 400-milligram daily dosage.

Novartis, the world's biggest drug maker by revenue and a leader in cancer medicines, is aiming to limit the number of U.S. patients who immediately defect to generic Gleevec.

Employing a common strategy of brand-name drugmakers whose blockbuster drugs are going off patent, Novartis is offering patients with private insurance discount cards that set their monthly copayment at \$10, with Novartis covering up to \$30,000 a year of the pharmacy bill. Insurers would be on the hook for the remainder. The program isn't available to patients paying cash or insured under government health programs. Sun has exclusive rights to sell generic Gleevec for six months. □



# 'Hunger Games' barely fends off spooky 'Krampus' film



This photo provided by Legendary Pictures and Universal Pictures shows Emjay Anthony as Max in Legendary Pictures' "Krampus." (Steve Unwin/AP)

RYAN NAKASHIMA

AP Business Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — The "Hunger Games" finale spoiled an early Christmas for the holiday horror comedy "Krampus" to maintain its top spot at the North American box office for the third week running. The Jennifer Lawrence-led film took in an estimated \$18.6 million in the U.S. and Canada, bringing its domestic total to \$227 million, according to Rentrak estimates Sunday. The anti-Santa Claus thriller from Universal, the only film to debut in the top 10 this week, brought in \$16 million. The normally slow weekend following Thanksgiving was up 26 percent from a year ago thanks to the fresh material from Universal, which slipped in between the release of two huge franchise movies — "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 2," and "Star Wars: Episode VII — The Force Awakens," which is due out Dec. 18.

"Even though it's horror at its base, you needed to have enough time for the film to open and lead up to Christmas," said Nicholas Carpou, Universal Pictures' president of domestic distribution. "Being the only wide commercial release on this date really did wonders for this film."

Modestly budgeted for under \$15 million, "Krampus"

is likely to add to the profits of what has been a record year for Universal following the release of movies like "Jurassic World," "Furious 7," and "Minions."

Meanwhile, the final movie installment for bow-wielding Katniss pushed past \$500 million worldwide, another hit for Lionsgate, which has staked its claim on the young adult market. It hopes to keep rolling with its franchise film strategy with "Allegiant," the third film in the "Divergent" series due out in March.

"Creed," the boxing film where Sylvester Stallone reprises his role as Rocky Balboa, came third, and the Disney/Pixar animated tale "The Good Dinosaur" came fourth. Each had around \$15.5 million in ticket sales.

Overall ticket sales are running 4 percent ahead of last year and are on track to top \$11 billion in the U.S. and Canada for the first time, said Rentrak's senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian.

Dergarabedian says it remains to be seen whether the global excitement around J.J. Abrams' "Star Wars" will drown out a bevy of other options coming out later this year. That ranges from director Alejandro Inarritu's "The Revenant" to the Amy Poehler and Tina Fey-led comedy, "Sisters," which has knowingly marketed its film with

a "Star Wars" parody trailer and the hashtag #youcanseethemboth.

Among other films competing for attention in the coming weeks are: "Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip," the Will Smith-led football movie "Concussion," and "Joy," an underdog tale that reunites stars Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper with "American Hustle" director David O. Russell.

"Hopefully the rising tide of 'Star Wars' will raise all movies," Dergarabedian said.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "The Hunger Games:

Mockingjay — Part 2," \$18.6 million.

2. "Krampus," \$16.0 million.

3. "Creed," \$15.5 million.

4. "The Good Dinosaur," \$15.5 million.

5. "Spectre," \$5.4 million.

6. "The Night Before," \$4.9 million.

7. "The Peanuts Movie," \$3.5 million.

8. "Spotlight," \$2.9 million.

9. "Brooklyn," \$2.4 million.

10. "Secret In Their Eyes," \$2.0 million. □

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# In 'Hitchcock/Truffaut,' a tete-a-tete between two titans

**JAKE COYLE**

**AP Film WriterNEW YORK (AP)** — "Hitchcock/Truffaut," one of the most essential books about moviemaking and a historic tete-a-tete between two of the greatest filmmakers (one a Hollywood veteran, the other a rising star of the French New Wave), began with a letter. "There are many directors with a love of cinema, but what you possess is a love

of celluloid itself and it is that which I would like to talk to you about," Francois Truffaut wrote to Alfred Hitchcock. What followed was a week of interviews in a windowless Hollywood office that culminated in 27 hours of recordings in which Truffaut discussed Hitchcock's artistry, film by film. The new documentary "Hitchcock/Truffaut" by critic, filmmaker and New York Film



This 1962 image released by Cohen Media Group shows Francois Truffaut, left, and director Alfred Hitchcock in a scene from Kent Jones's documentary, "Hitchcock/Truffaut." The new documentary by critic, filmmaker and New York Film Festival head Kent Jones, is about that extraordinary meeting and its long reverberations through cinema.

(Philippe Halsman/Cohen Media Group via AP)

Festival head Kent Jones, is about that extraordinary meeting and its long reverberations through cinema. "It was the birth of an idea of cinema and film culture as a world unto itself," says Jones.

It also had really cool pictures. Shot-by-shot photo montages of scenes, like the infamous shower stabbing of "Psycho," were what first captivated Jones as an already movie-crazy 12 year-old. He was far from alone. The book, published in 1966, four years after the interviews, is roundly considered a kind of bible for cinephiles and filmmakers, alike. In the film, David Fincher (who is currently remaking Hitchcock's "Strangers on a Train") recalls pouring over the images as a kid. Martin Scorsese describes the book's celebration of Hitchcock as "like a weight taken off our shoulders."

"It conclusively changed people's opinions about Hitchcock," says Peter Bogdanovich in the film. "Hitchcock began to be taken much more seriously."

Though Hitchcock is now among the most revered directors ever (his "Vertigo," initially received coldly by critics, currently ranks as the top film of all time in

Sight & Sound's poll), Truffaut's book was the first full appreciation of his genius. A post-war cultural exchange between Hollywood and France (the birthplace of cinema) was then stoking a new appraisal of studio films and filmmakers. Led by the Cahiers du Cinema (for which Truffaut wrote before becoming a filmmaker), French critics saw directors — good ones, at least — as the authors of their films, even when working within the confines of the 1940s and '50s studio system.

For Jones, "Hitchcock/Truffaut" was ultimately about the emergence of film as its own cultural realm, not in comparison to literature or anything else. In the conversation of two titans of filmmaking — each from wildly different backgrounds, speaking through a translator but united by a common obsession — lie many of the things that makes movies movies: how shots edited together make a scene; how space is used; how objects take on a hyper, dreamlike significance; what Cary Grant and Ingrid Bergman can do together.

"It's the sensuality and the tactility and the danger and the ecstasy and the modernity all at once,"

says Jones. "That's cinema."

Jones' passion for the book, and the conversation it began, is easily apparent. The film, too, continues the conversation, with filmmakers like Richard Linklater and Wes Anderson still teasing out the craftsmanship of Hitchcock.

It's easy to see the book (Truffaut called it a "livre-film" or his "Hitchbook") as a bridge between two eras of movies: Hitchcock's classical period, with its careful compositions and classical performances; and the coming shift of more brazenly personal filmmaking and acting, and self-consciously artistic movies.

"Hitchcock/Truffaut" connects those eras, not so much marking the distance between them than their commonality of pursuit. The book was a sizable event in the lives of its two participants, too. Initially planning to do it in a few months, Truffaut spent nearly four years on it, effectively pausing a red-hot career kicked off by "The 400 Blows," "Shoot the Pianoist" and "Jules and Jim." Hitchcock, who would go on to make a handful more films, remained friends with Truffaut. □

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MON-THURS 5:05 | 8:00  
FRI 5:05 | 8:00 | 10:55  
SAT 2:25 | 5:05 | 8:00 | 10:55  
SUN & HOL 2:25 | 5:05 | 8:00

**MIDNIGHT SHOW WEDNESDAY**  
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**STAR WARS THE FORCE AWAKENS**

**ADAM SCOTT | TONI COLLETTE**

**KRAMPUS**

MON-THURS 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35  
FRI 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35 | 11:50  
SAT 2:50 | 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35 | 11:50  
SUN & HOL 2:50 | 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35

**MICHAEL B. JORDAN | SYLVESTER STALLONE**

**CREED**

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON-THURS 3:55 | 6:20 | 9:10  
FRI 3:55 | 6:20 | 9:10 | 12:05  
SAT 3:30 | 6:20 | 9:10 | 12:05  
SUN & HOL 3:30 | 6:20 | 9:10

**DANIEL RADCLIFF | JAMES MCAVOY**

**ik! wil!**

DUTCH VERSION

MON-FRI 4:40 | 6:55  
SAT 2:25 | 4:40 | 6:55  
SUN & HOL 2:25 | 4:40 | 6:55

**JEFFREY WRIGHT | FRANCES MCDORMAND**

**THE GOOD DINOSAUR**

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

3D VERSION  
MON-FRI 4:50 | 7:05  
SAT 2:35 | 4:50 | 7:05  
SUN & HOL 2:35 | 4:50 | 7:05

2D VERSION  
MON-THURS 4:10 | 6:25 | 8:40  
FRI 4:10 | 6:25 | 8:40 | 10:55  
SAT 1:55 | 4:10 | 6:25 | 8:40 | 10:55  
SUN & HOL 1:55 | 4:10 | 6:25 | 8:40

**JOSEPH GORDON-LEVITT | SETH ROGEN**

**THE NIGHT BEFORE**

MON-THURS 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30  
FRI 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30 | 11:50  
SAT 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30 | 11:50  
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30

**JENNIFER LAWRENCE | JOSH HUTCHERSON**

**THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY PART 2**

MON-FRI 9:10  
SAT 9:10  
SUN & HOL 9:10

**DANIEL CRAIG | CHRISTOPH WALTZ**

**SPECTRE 007**

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON-THURS 5:45 | 8:50  
FRI 5:45 | 8:50  
SAT 2:40 | 5:45 | 8:50  
SUN & HOL 2:40 | 5:45 | 8:50

**DANIEL RADCLIFF | JAMES MCAVOY**

**VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN**

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## Caitlyn Jenner sued by family in traffic crash

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — A family who suffered serious injuries in a fatal traffic collision involving Caitlyn Jenner earlier this year sued the Olympic gold medalist this weekend.

The Wolf-Milesi family of Malibu sued Jenner in Los Angeles Superior Court for negligence in the February crash, which killed one woman after Jenner rear-ended her car and pushed it into oncoming traffic on the Pacific Coast Highway. A sport utility vehicle driven by Peter Wolf-Milesi family struck a car driven by Kim Howe, killing her. The lawsuit states the four members of the Wolf-Milesi family and another occupant of their vehicle sustained serious injuries in the crash. Peter Wolf-Milesi suffered serious wrist injuries and his one-month old son was unresponsive after the accident, according to the lawsuit. Wolf-Milesi's wife also sustained blunt-force injuries and requires ongoing treatment, the suit states.

"The emotional effects of being involved in a collision that has taken the life of another has caused tremendous distress and suffering for the Wolf-Milesi family," the suit states.

Jenner's publicist Alan Nierob declined comment Friday.

Sheriff's investigators determined Jenner was traveling at an unsafe speed for the traffic conditions. Prosecutors declined to file a vehicular manslaughter charge against the 66-year-old Jenner, who was born as Bruce Jenner.

The accident occurred before Jenner announced she is transgender and transitioned into her new identity as Caitlyn.

After the accident, Jenner released a statement expressing sympathy to those involved in the accident.

"It is a devastating tragedy," the statement read. "I cannot pretend to imagine what this family is going through at this time. I am praying for them." □

## Alicia Keys performs at Swizz Beatz's art collection

**KELLI KENNEDY**  
**Associated Press**

**MIAMI (AP)** — Powerhouse producer Swizz Beatz definitely used his art prowess to help wife Alicia Keys fall in love with him. Now he's bringing that same discerning eye to the public with a carefully curated collection showing at Art Basel Miami Beach.

"(Art is) some of the real strong foundation of our relationship," Keys said in an exclusive interview with The Associated Press. "At the beginning, he decided to teach me about people that I had no idea about. ... The first artist he taught me about was Erte ... and he was like, 'You don't know who Erte is,'" she said with mock condescension. "He gets a real kick, I think, out of introducing people to artists that he knows they'll love."

Beatz, whose real name is Kasseem Dean, said he used to choose art based on status, but eventually found greater pleasure discovering up-and-comers, "artists that I can speak to, that we can have dinner with at our home, artists that our children can meet."

"He has such a passion for art and has even given me a passion for art," said Keys, who cuddled close beside her man during the interview.

The couple feels so strongly about giving struggling artists — from musicians to painters — a platform that they decided to let the artists keep 100 percent of their commissions from the show.

The well-known DJ hand-picked each piece of art



**Hip hop recording artist and producer Swizz Beatz, poses for a photo in front of an installation by artist Gabriel Dawe at Casa Bacardi's art fair and Untameable House Party, in Miami. The no-commission art fair was curated by Beatz, and both Beatz and his wife Alicia Keys performed during the Untameable House Party.**  
(AP Photo/Lynne Sladky)

at Bacardi's The Dean Collection. Bacardi also sponsored a VIP-only three night-concert series alongside the exhibit. Keys headlined Thursday's show.

"As artists we understand the plight of an artist, what it is to get your creativity out there, what it is to be heard and what it is to be taken advantage of and what it is to be appreciated," said Keys, who rocked leggings and cherry red platform heels.

The Bacardi partnership also allowed Beatz to work outside the constraints of most galleries. Artists were free to choose whatever pieces they wanted to display and how much they wanted to charge, but he warned them to use that power wisely.

"If you're getting 100 percent of your commission,

let's not use that power to overcharge the people because that goes against the message as well. This is the only collection that's by the artist for the artist," he said.

The Dean Collection, which includes everything from fledgling artists to established names like Dustin Yellin, Kehinde Wiley and KAWS, became such a buzzword in the couple's home that their son even tried to get in on the action.

"Egypt will draw a picture and say this is for the Dean Collection," said Keys, who has two children with Beatz.

It didn't make this collection, but is proudly hanging on their refrigerator at home.

Beatz, who has produced songs for Jay-Z and Be-

yonce, said he is most excited about his recent collaboration with Keys on her new album.

"I feel like it's the best music we've both ever done. Honestly, we've been free enough to tap into really bringing together some of the greatest musicians and some of the greatest creative people," said Keys.

She was vague about a release date, but promised fans it was coming "Very soon. Be mysteriously surprised. Very soon."

She credited her husband, who doted on her throughout the interview, with taking a risk and working with musicians she wouldn't normally reach out to.

"It leads to this incredible energy and incredible inspiration that brings from it what you could have never imagined," she said. □

## Kim Kardashian West, Kanye West welcome son

**SANDY COHEN**  
**AP Entertainment Writer**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — The newest member of the Kardashian clan has arrived.

Kim Kardashian West and Kanye West welcomed a baby boy early Saturday in Los Angeles.

"He's here!" the reality star teased on Twitter. An announcement on Kar-

dashian's website reads, "KANYE AND I WELCOME OUR BABY BOY!"

A representative for the couple confirms to The Associated Press that mom and baby are doing well. There was no immediate word on the baby's name. Kardashian West has tracked her pregnancy online for her 37 million Twitter followers, posting

an image late Friday of her bare belly with the caption, "Ready whenever you are lol."

This is the second child for the stellar couple: Daughter North was born in 2013. Kardashian, 35, and West, 38, were married last year in Florence, Italy, in a gala ceremony filmed for E!'s "Keeping Up With the Kardashians." West proposed

to his bride in October 2013, renting out San Francisco's AT&T Park for the occasion.

West was in New York earlier this week for the Footwear News Achievement Awards, where he gave a rambling 20-minute acceptance speech after his Adidas Yeezy Boost sneaker was named shoe of the year. □



# Weeks of violence dampen Christmas spirit in Bethlehem

**DANIELLA CHESLOW**  
**Associated Press**

**BETHLEHEM, West Bank (AP)** — With Christmas only weeks away and the latest Israeli-Palestinian violence showing no signs of abating, gloom has descended on the century-old Jacir Palace hotel in Bethlehem, famed for its soaring stone archways and wrought iron

Much of Bethlehem is in a similar funk. Christmas Eve is a major event for the biblical town, drawing thousands of foreign tourists each year and giving a huge jolt to local businesses. This year, the holiday spirit will be harder to find. Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli, scheduled to perform

the catastrophes." The latest wave of violence, which erupted in mid-September, has killed 19 Israelis, mostly in Palestinian stabbings and shooting attacks. At least 106 Palestinians, including 71 said by Israel to be attackers, have been killed. The rest died in clashes with Israeli forces. Israel blames the violence

grey smoke would help hide them. As the troops fired the first round of tear gas and the acrid smell reached the courtyard lobby, Kattan paced the reception area, checking to make sure no guests were nearby and that the staff had followed his instructions. "Everyone knows what to do," Kattan said. "It has be-

and white stone, the estate was once surrounded by olive groves. The nearest structure was Rachel's Tomb, a shrine Jews revere as the burial place of the biblical matriarch and where once a mosque stood, Muslims say. After the Jacir family went bankrupt, the palace became a prison, then British military headquarters and a school, according to Nada Atrash, a Bethlehem architect. In 1948, when Israel was formed, Palestinian refugees streamed into a refugee camp behind the palace; today it's a maze of concrete homes, with laundry lines stretched across the narrow streets. After Israel and the Palestinians signed the Oslo Peace Accords in 1993, Palestinian businessmen invested \$50 million to transform it into a hotel. The late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat laid the hotel cornerstone in 1998. The Denham, England-based InterContinental Hotels Group signed a 15-year contract with the local investors.

"Everything looked nice and beautiful and everybody thought now this is time to make some money," said Kattan.

The optimism was short-lived. Doors to the 250-room hotel opened in May 2000 but shut within months as the second intifada, or Palestinian uprising, began. Israeli troops used the hotel as a military base, sandbagging the windows and surrounding Rachel's Tomb with concrete slabs to prevent Palestinian gunmen from attacking Jewish visitors. The hotel reopened in 2005 as tourism began to recover but the last two years have been a challenge. In 2014, roughly 4,500 foreign tourists visited Bethlehem on Christmas Eve, half the number from the year before because of a summer war between Israel and Hamas.

Kattan, the manager, said he is grateful for the timing of the current protests at least — it's too cold to use the pool now and most of the clashes happen in the afternoon, when guests are out sightseeing. □



**Christian Palestinians attend the lighting of a Christmas tree in Manger Square, outside the Church of the Nativity in the West Bank town of Bethlehem, Saturday, Dec. 5, 2015. Christmas Eve is a major event for the biblical town, but Mayor Vera Baboun said the city would only decorate Manger Square this year. The holiday spirit will be harder to find after weeks of Israeli-Palestinian violence.**

**(AP Photo/Majdi Mohammed)**

balconies. The traditional Christmas party has been nixed and reservations are down 50 percent. Empty tear gas canisters litter the street in front of the hotel and charred stains mark spots where protesters burned tires. After almost three months of absorbing stones and rubber bullets, nearly every front window of the hotel is cracked. When Palestinian youths clash with Israeli troops outside, guests are forced to use the back entrance to dodge plumes of smoke and tear gas. "We have had tremendous difficulty," said Johnny Kattan, Jacir's maintenance manager. "But we've seen worse times."

in December, has called off his visit. Sellers of olive wood souvenirs say they have nearly no customers, and Bethlehem hotel owners are struggling to fill their beds, especially after 11 new hotels opened in the last three years. Mayor Vera Baboun said the city would only decorate Manger Square, home to the church that hosts the traditional birthplace of Jesus, and two nearby streets, instead of all of downtown. "Every year, when we light the tree, usually there is a huge display of fireworks, but this year we will ring church bells instead," said Baboun. The bells, she added, will remind everyone "that we exist despite all

on incitement by Palestinian leaders and on social media sites. Palestinians say the attacks stem from a lack of hope for gaining independence after years of failed peace efforts. In October, 27-year-old Moataz Zawahra, one of Jacir's waiters, was shot and killed by Israeli troops at the hotel's entrance. The Israeli military says he threw a firebomb at the soldiers; his colleagues say they did not see him attacking troops. He was off duty when he was shot. On Friday, Palestinian youths dragged metal garbage cans across the street in front of Jacir, hurled rocks at the Israeli guard tower and set fires on fire so the

come routine." He went through the motions of calling the Palestinian police, which he said would not arrive. Then he went on lunch break. Outside, 19-year-old protester Ahmad Sarahat from Bethlehem covered his mouth with the sleeve of his sweatshirt to shield himself from the tear gas. "We want them to leave," said Sarahat, pointing at the Israeli watchtower. "We are not afraid." Kattan and others at the hotel hope it will weather the storm, as it has so many times in the past. Built as a palace in 1910 by Mayor Suleiman Jacir who used French architectural blueprints and local pink